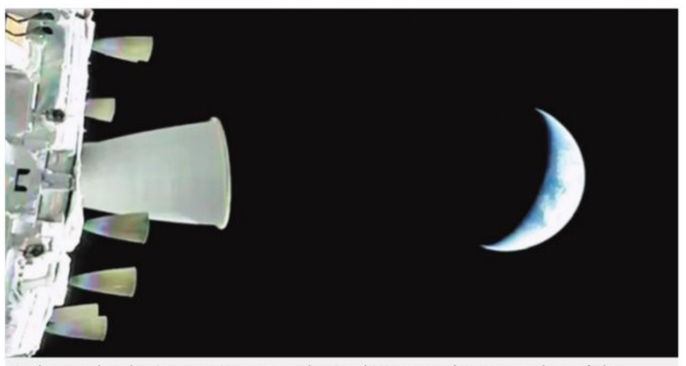
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SATURDAY • APRIL 04, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION



A photo taken by Artemis II commander Reid Wiseman from a window of the Moon-bound space capsule, shows a curved slice of Earth | AP/PTI | P11

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INS Aridhaman ahead of its commissioning ceremony | PTI

With INS Aridhaman, India gets 3rd N-sub

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

INDIA on Friday commissioned its third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), INS Aridhaman, in a key step towards establishing continuous at-sea nuclear deterrence and strengthening the most survivable leg of its strategic triad.

There was no official word yet on the commissioning of Aridhaman but sources confirmed it. Reports said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi attended the commissioning ceremony held at a frontline naval base.

With this, India has three operational SSBN fleet. INS Arihant (commissioned in 2016) and INS Arighaat (2024) are the other two SSBNs. This meets the minimum requirement for sustained deterrent patrol cycles, with at least one submarine deployed at all times while others undergo maintenance.

Aridhaman can carry up to eight K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) or a greater number of shorter-range K-15 missiles depending on requirements.

SSBNs are considered the most dependable second-strike capability given their stealth and survivability.

Earlier in the day, Navy's new warship INS Taragiri was commissioned at Visakhapatnam. In his address, the defence minister described INS Taragiri as a symbol of India's growing technological prowess.

China has six SSBNs, Pak none

China has 6 Jin-class SSBNs and 6-8 Shang-class nuclear-powered attack submarines, alongside a conventional submarine force of 50 vessels. Pakistan does not possess nuclear-powered submarines

It's not words but power, 'Aridhaman'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in a cryptic post on X in Hindi, hinting at the commissioning of INS Aridhaman

First US jet downed in Iran

F-15E shot down; US forces rescue one crew member; search on for the second

AGENCIES @ Tehran/Dubai

IN the first known loss of a US fighter jet inside Iran since the start of the war, Iran reportedly shot down an F-15E on Friday. The number of persons on board was not immediately known but reports said the jet had a weapons-systems officer, apart from the pilot.

Iranian media said the pilot appeared to have ejected, as no body parts were recovered from the site. A local television channel also broadcast visuals of the downed jet.

DAY 35 | WAR WATCH

Tehran immediately offered a bounty for the pilot and urged people to hand the "enemy" over to police.

In parallel, the US launched a high-risk search and rescue mission deep inside Iran. Iranian media shared images of US fleet, including planes, helicopters, and drones, flying over Iran's Kohkilouyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province.

Multiple reports said one crew member was rescued by the US team and efforts were on to locate the other.

If Iran gets hold of the second person, it could change the course of the war as Tehran could use the US citizen as a bargain chip and extract concessions from Washington.

The Trump administration has not officially confirmed the loss of the aircraft or commented on the fate of the crew. US Central Command, which is responsible for military operations in West Asia tried to play down the damage claiming all its aircraft were accounted for, but major US media outlets reported that an F-15E jet went down.

F-15E Strike Eagle is a high-speed, two-seat fighter jet with increased fuel capacity for extended combat.

Around the same time the US jet went down on Friday afternoon, blasts rocked Tehran.

The downing of the US fighter jet comes on the eve of the UN Security Council voting on a draft resolution proposed by Bahrain on reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

Debris of a purported F-15E shot down in Iran. US and Iranian forces are searching for the pilot who bailed | X

Missile launchers: 50% intact

US intelligence estimates that around half of Iran's ballistic missile launchers are still intact. Some of them are unusable as they are buried under rubble. Besides, Iran has thousands of attack drones stockpiled and ready for use

Fired: US army chief chucked

US Army Chief of Staff Randy George was on Friday fired by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. Gen Christopher LaNeve will be stepping in as acting Army chief of staff, the Pentagon said

LPG: Tanker on way to India

A ship with 44,000 kt of LPG is en route to India after crossing the Strait of Hormuz. Two other vessels – Green Asha and Jag Vikram – are expected to arrive in the coming days | P12

Woman techie from Kerala on trek goes missing in Kodagu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Madikeri

A woman trekker, who is a techie from Kerala, went missing from Tadiandamol, the highest peak of Kodagu district, on Thursday. The police, forest officials and local residents have launched a search operation to trace her. Sharanya GS (36), who hails from Kerala, was visiting Kodagu when she went missing.

On Thursday morning, a group of around ten trekkers started on the Tadiandamol trail in the morning after receiving permission from the forest department.

Sharanya, a solo traveler from Kochi in Kerala, arrived at the foothill of the peak alone and sought permission to trek the trail. But as the belt has wild elephant movement, foresters at the checkpost asked her to join the other trekkers and walk the trail with them. But while the other trekkers returned from the peak in the evening, Sharanya was missing.

Sharanya GS

The foresters at the checkpost immediately got into action and started the search operation. The police, who had been alerted, too joined them along with local residents. The search continued till midnight, but could not trace Sharanya.

CONTINUED ON: P6

EXPRESS READ

Santosh Hegde collapses on stage

Bengaluru: Former Lokayukta Justice N Santosh Hegde collapsed on stage during a programme in the city on Friday. He was rushed to a hospital where he is doing well, said Speaker UT Khader | P5

Guv seeks review of third language grading

Bengaluru: The Lok Bhavan (governor's office) has urged Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh to review the government's decision to award only grades, and not marks, for the third language in SSLC exams | P4

Naxal-hit dists in India scaled down to two

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

AHEAD of the March 31 deadline set for eliminating the Naxal footprint, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs had convened a high-level review meeting to assess the status of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) across the country.

What followed was a revised categorisation of LWE affected districts under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme, which determines the allocation of Central funds and security resources, sources said.

As per the fresh classification, only two districts — Bijapur in Chhattisgarh and West Singhbhum in Jharkhand — have now been designated as 'LWE Affected Districts', sources said, adding that Kanker district in Chhattisgarh has been placed under the 'District of Concern' category.

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SCAN OR CODE TO APPLY NOW

Civic forums flay move to regularise 15% deviation

Cite SC guidelines, raise concerns on urban congestion, ventilation

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

TWO days after the Karnataka government's draft notification was put out, regularising 15 per cent building deviation from the sanctioned plan in the five city corporations under Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), civic forums call the move outright discrimination against owners following building bylaws, and providing a 'helping hand' to violators.

"Constitutional rights, like light and ventilation, are blocked due to violation of bylaws. The decision is against the Supreme Court stay on Akrama Sakrama in 2017, and also the Supreme Court guidelines against deviation and unauthorised construction in 2024, and more importantly, against the 74th Amendment provisions that give powers to local bodies to take such decisions," said R Rajagopalan from Bengaluru Coalition.

Echoing him, MK Sridharan, coordinator of Civic Solutions, said the draft notification is an example of bad governance on the part of the legislature and executive. "If the decision goes to court, it may not stand a chance of scrutiny under the law."

CN Kumar of FORCE, Jayanagar Residents' Welfare Association, pointed out that the decision will lead to extreme densification of urban areas.

He stated that the people who follow rules are not taken into consideration, and GBA is only helping the law violators. "Not a single case has been booked against engineers for failure of law enforcement. After the SC order in 2024, a lot of buildings are not getting Occupancy Certificate, and with this relaxation, many such buildings will be accommodated. There is talk now that even bigger buildings with violations will be given relaxations in the coming days. Where is this going to end?" rued Kumar.

The government and GBA defend the decision, saying the move would benefit around 3 lakh property owners who are waiting for Occupancy Certificates, with violations of over 5 per cent. "The move will help 30x40 sqft site owners as deviations will get regularised. At the same time, government coffers will also get filled as the owners will pay a penalty -- Rs 50,000 is fixed per square metre based on the guidance value. The relaxation applies to deviation of up to 15 per cent for buildings under 15metres (49.2ft) tall on plots up to 500sqm (5382sqft), and 5 per cent for buildings over 15metres on plots above 500sqm. If the deviation is only within the permissible limit, it will be allowed for regularisation with a penalty," said a senior official.

Former ministers and opposition MLAs Dr CN Ashwath Narayan and K Gopalaiah stressed that no future violation should be allowed, and the laws should become stringent. Owners buy plots and construct buildings in violation of bylaws, it is the responsibility of the system to stop such construction. "Can the government go and demolish so many buildings now? More than bylaw violators, the government should fix the responsibility on officials," said Ashwath Narayan.

Mahalakshmi Layout MLA K Gopalaiah said the decision is fair enough, but benefits hardly 5 per cent of violators. Across Karnataka, there are nearly 8 lakh such buildings. "Will these buildings also get relaxations from the government? The violation happened because of the failure of engineers. Had the engineers come and checked during the initial stage of construction, the owners would not have resorted to deviations," said Gopalaiah.

IOCL TO INCREASE DISTRIBUTION

LPG supply eases, auto drivers relieved

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE supply crunch of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for auto rickshaws in Bengaluru in the past two days appeared to ease on Friday. Panic subsided after IndianOil Corporation Limited's (IOCL) announcement late Thursday night that auto LPG supplies would be scaled up in Karnataka to tackle the rising demand.

In a press release, IOCL mentioned that the decision comes in light of the "closure or partial shutdown of several private auto LPG outlets in Bengaluru and other parts of the state". Over the past few days, multiple outlets were out of service, with long queues of autorickshaws at the remaining few with LPG stock.

Bowring Service Station, a supplier of IndianOil, ran out of auto LPG supply on Thursday, following a massive upsurge in demand on Wednesday. On Friday, a station in-charge said fresh supply had arrived in the morning, and got depleted around noon. "More auto LPG supply is scheduled to arrive earliest by tomorrow (Saturday) morning," he added.

A long queue of autorickshaws waiting to fill gas at a supply station in Kengeri Satellite Town on Friday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

"IndianOil is currently meeting the fuel requirements of auto rickshaws and LPG-driven cars through its network of 55 Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) spread across Karnataka. The average daily sales at IndianOil's ALDS in Karnataka has risen sharply to 59.53 tonnes, compared to the previous three-month average of 43.4 tonnes, reflecting a significant increase in consumer demand," IOCL said in a statement.

Meanwhile, aggregator platforms claimed that while service had been hit, it had not entirely capitulated. "Currently, LPG-powered autos make up around 30 per cent of our active auto captain base, and contribute to 27-30 per cent of total auto rides. Since earlier this year, we have observed a limited churn of approximately 2 per cent within this segment, primarily driven by fuel availability challenges. This has resulted in a marginal impact of about 1.5 per cent on overall monthly orders. While the overall disruption remains contained at this stage, the situation is directly affecting the daily earnings and operating consistency of LPG-dependent auto captains," a spokesperson from Rapido said.

PG owner fined Rs 40,000 for littering

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

PAYING guest (PG) accommodations in Bengaluru have come under scrutiny after several facilities were found violating solid waste management rules and dumping mixed waste in public spaces.

The action follows a recent incident in SG Palya, Bengaluru South, where a PG facility was caught littering by marshals and engineers of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML). Authorities imposed a penalty of Rs 40,000 on the PG owner.

Officials said PG accommodations generating over 100 kg of waste per day or operating in buildings larger than 5,000 sqft are classified as bulk waste generators and must appoint authorised vendors to manage and clear their waste.

"Following such incidents, top BSWML officials directed field teams to inspect PG facilities for compliance. If they continue to dump mixed waste in public areas or drains, not only will penalties be imposed, but their trade licences may also be suspended. The health wing of the corporation will be alerted," an official said.

BCU's picks for honorary doctorates spark debate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE@Bengaluru

DR Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University (BCU) has come under lens after it announced the names of people selected for honorary doctorate at their fifth convocation ceremony to be held on Saturday.

Though the Governor's office selects the final names for doctorate, the initial list of names are sent by the University officials. This year, the university had sent 14 names of which six were selected for the Honoris Causa Degree – cricketer BK Venkatesh Prasad (sports), Arjun Janya (music), TK Narayanappa (education), MLC Dr K Govindaraj (Sports Administration), Dr Mohan Alva (education) and BM Farooq (industries).

When asked about the displeasure among syndicate members opposing the university's decision to honour people including Govindaraj, Farooq and Narayanappa and some of them having written to the higher education minister that they wouldn't attend the convocation ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Ramesh B said, "There is no displeasure as such, but we have received suggestions from the Syndicate members to follow a transparent process for the selection of people for honorary doctorate. They have also suggested that we follow certain protocols and we will make sure to implement them from the next academic year. The names were finalised by a nominee from the governor's office, two members from the syndicate committee and one subject expert." He said there was no political pressure from any party or ministers.

BCU Vice-Chancellor Ramesh B (centre) addresses the media in Bengaluru on Friday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Ramesh said, "Last time, during the vice-chancellors meeting held in Bengaluru, the issue of universities giving honorary doctorate to the same people was discussed. Higher Education Minister MC Sudhakar as well as Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot had stated that they would come up with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be followed by all the universities across the state."

State delaying suburban rail, says Vaishnaw

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

OF the 57 acres of land for Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project's (BSRP) Corridor-4 (Heelalige – Rajankunte), only 7.8 acres have been acquired by Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE), which is under the state government and that's the reason for the delay in completion of the project, Minister for Railways **Ashwini Vaishnaw** told the Lok Sabha on Friday.

On the progress of BSRP, he said approval has been granted for a 148.17-km stretch at a cost Rs 15,767 crore with 20% funding each by the Union and state governments, and 60% through borrowings. The project has incurred an expenditure of Rs 2,659 crore.

Vaishnav said alignment plans for Corridor-1 (Sampige) between KSR Bengaluru City and Devanahalli (41.4 km) have been approved and the state government has initiated the land acquisition process. "Shifting of S&T (Signalling and Telecommunication) and electrical utilities has also been taken up," he said.

Vaishnaw said the land acquisition for the 25-km Baiyyappanahalli–Chikkabanavara corridor has been completed. To build stations, separate contracts have been awarded, he said. The state government has launched the land acquisition process for the 35.5-km Kengeri–Whitefield corridor. "Shifting of S&T and electrical utilities has also been taken up," he said, adding that land acquisition process is on for the 46-km Heelalige–Rajankunte corridor.

Biocon inducts 15 women into STEM project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Biocon Foundation on Friday onboarded 15 postgraduate women students out of the 350 applicants for BioWISE (Bio-Women in STEM Empowered) programme, being conducted in collaboration with the Bengaluru Science and Technology Cluster (BeST Cluster) and the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS).

This is the first BioWISE cohort and the candidates were selected through a rigorous and multi-stage process. The 15 participants in the first phase have been placed with leading academic and industry partners, including the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology,

they are working alongside scientists and industry professionals at Indian Institute of Science and Biocon. As part of this programme, 25 women students – 15 postgraduates and 10 undergraduates – from Tier 2 and Tier 3 universities across Karnataka will be supported with academic training.

CASTING FOR A LIVING

A fisherman casts a net in Kuluvanahalli Lake. Dwindling inflow is drying up the lake, threatening sustainability of agricultural activities in the surrounding areas and survival of waterbirds | Kevin Nashon

FKCCI MEET TO FACILITATE FARMER-INDUSTRY LINK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE@Bengaluru

THE Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FKCCI), in association with the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), is planning to organise its first 'Global Agri-tech Summit 2026' from April 24 to 26 in Bengaluru's Palace Grounds.

FKCCI President Uma Reddy said that the intent of the summit is to connect the farmers with the industries.

"Industry participation is limited to a few products in agriculture. We intend to bridge the gap and bring together farmers, agritech startups, industry leaders, researchers and policymakers on one platform. Farmers have many problems where the industry can pitch in and develop solutions to address them, thereby developing agriculture," Uma Reddy said.

FKCCI presiden Uma Reddy addresses the media on Friday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

She said the summit will feature advanced technologies like AI, drone-based monitoring, precision farming tools, smart irrigation systems and modern food processing techniques. Uma said that there would be over 200 stalls and that the technologies intend to improve agri efficiency, cut down costs and increase income for the farming community.

UAS Vice-Chancellor Dr S V Suresha said that the farming community need to use technology and said, "There are many developments in agriculture like solar-operated tractors, driverless tractors, drone sprayers, etc., which have minimised the labour needed. At the same time, irrespective of big or small farmers, the farming community is facing problems and that need solutions developed by the industries."

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

04th April : Lunar Trines of Longing Due to the ironic process effect, "don't think of a purple elephant" is a sure way to conjure visions of pachydermata. Relatedly, the harder you try to forget something (or someone), the better you remember, especially under this poetic Scorpio moon of longing. Write things down. It will magically aid with remembering, forgetting, processing and poeticizing.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Celebration will renew your confidence. Don't wait for others -- start it up. Acknowledge how far you've come, toast your efforts, applaud your persistence. Recognition of progress from the outside world is coming for you soon, but until then, honor your own victories.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
You can have what you want, so long as you want the cost of it just as much as you want the rest of it. Many costs are hidden. That's why the theoretical experiments aren't enough. Experience will teach you the reality.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Good friends tolerate your entire range of moods and energy -- brilliant, tired, funny, quiet, uncertain. You don't have to be luminous to belong. If you can show up low-wattage and still feel valued, you've found someone safe.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
Today highlights the many things to be rich in besides money. And much that's more wondrous than gold goes uncelebrated -- practically kept secret. To be rich in peace, patience or compassion is rare and transcendent.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Reading the room is so important. It prevents you from wasting your time and energy on those who can't or won't be receptive. The people who can get something out of your offering really need you, so there's no time to waste pitching to the wrong room.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
You'll be drawn to go under the radar, play it low-key, move through the shadows... and not because you're hiding, but because you're observing the scene. Watching is research. The info you gather will be valuable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
Try again. The situation will reward persistence more than perfection. Putting yourself out there one more time might feel incredibly vulnerable. But the treasure will only appear after you've decided that embarrassment is a small price for possibility.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
There's money hiding in an unfinished conversation. It could be a follow-up call or checking in with someone you haven't talked with in a long time. It could also be in an email or pitch. Tying up the loose ends readies you for the next opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
You want support for what you're doing, but the others don't yet understand it. With repetition, they will. With clear articulation over time, they'll become familiar, then they'll really get it, and finally they will buy in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
Overcon-fidence blinds people to reality; modesty keeps them learning. But the thing is, people don't usually choose humility for the win. It's far more common for people to default to arrogance. And that's what makes your attitude so rare and, today, so effective as well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You're exciting because you entertain exciting ideas. You don't always have to follow through, take risks or do anything attention-getting to bring home the point. Trust that your playful, daring attitude is plenty attractive.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
Your best option may not be the one that's recommended by the experts. Your personal experience is valid evidence of what works. The experts don't understand your exact circumstances. Only you know how things feel to you.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

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7	6	3	2	4	1	5	8	9
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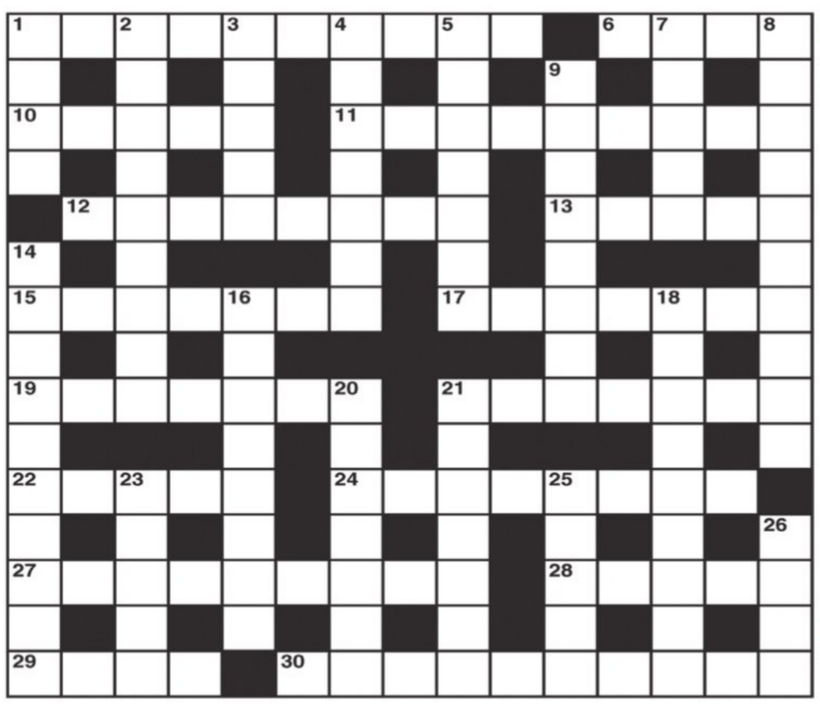
5	7	8	4	6	2	3	9	1
2	4	5	9	1	6	7	3	8
1	8	9	5	7	3	6	2	4
6	3	7	8	2	4	9	1	5

SUDOKU EVIL

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Island with many debts is undependable (10)
6 List of food (4)
10 The best one to make business arrangements (5)
11 Lavish with everything but mercy? (9)
12 A lemon is strangely classified as cereal (8)
13 Free trip to give medical attention (5)
15 Drug possibly oceanic in origin (7)
17 Rent row causes a storm (7)
19 It comes last locked in reverse (7)
21 See sign is incorrect for a start (7)
22 Just a maxim (5)
24 Honoured with high rank in the finish (8)
27 Not having had any hot drinks? (4,5)
28 Cultivating a vine is simple (5)
29 Rough deal for Helen's mother (4)
30 It's said to be praise for good sportsmen (4,6)

DOWN

1 Slight damage to essential part of computer (4)
2 Allegations that may be false (9)
3 I pick up key to look round someone's house (5)
4 Until that is put in order this is useless (7)
5 Pushy type seen to jump out of bed first (7)
7 A green girl (5)
8 Edifice with strong beams (10)
9 Car is not damaged being strong (4-4)
14 Bill gets a medical qualification of college (10)
16 The Utopian has his own collection of notions (8)
18 I stay true to the principle of self-denial (9)
20 Three times surrounded a number show fear (7)
21 Non-specialist officer (7)
23 Directed - in a straight line? (5)
25 Commonplace restriction on almost everything (5)
26 Metal van (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Lenient, 5 Discs, 8 The creeps, 9 Oar, 10 Rifle, 12 Strolled, 14 Errors, 15 Stress, 17 Research, 18 Asia, 21 Era, 22 Hold still, 24 Tudor, 25 Doublet.

Down: 1 Later, 2 Nee, 3 Earl, 4 Treaty, 5 Distorts, 6 Shoulders, 7 Strides, 11 Firm stand, 13 Breather, 14 Earnest, 16 Scaled, 19 Allot, 20 Esau, 23 Ill.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

NNYAO

POLYO

UMRTET

DOYTID

Nice job! What are you doing the rest of the day?
I'm going to take Thor for a ride and maybe hit a park.
AFTER LOADING HIS SAW, HAMMER, ETC. INTO HIS TRUCK, THE CARPENTER DECIDED TO ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHAOS WHISK ELDEST ODDEST
Answer: After learning that Mr. Silverstein wrote kids books and hit songs, they were — "SHEL"-SHOCKED

Mohsin Kasimsab Sawkar (30) and Irfan Nisar Vastrad (27) were sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment on charges of sexually harassing a minor girl at Bhuranki village, Khanapur taluk, by the POCSO court in Belagavi. Judge C M Pushpalata sentenced them to imprisonment and also imposed each a fine of Rs 10,000

PROPERTY DISPUTE

Claiming crop damage, man shoots dead stepbro's pet dog

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 60-year-old man shot dead his stepbrother's pet dog with a country made gun, claiming it had damaged his cauliflower crop. It is alleged that the accused and his wife had a dispute with the stepbrother regarding shares in an ancestral property, and this claimed the life of the two-year-old dog. It is also said that the crop was damaged by street dogs, and the pet dog was not at fault.

N Venkatesh (63), a resident of Nalluru in Devanahalli taluk, filed a complaint against his stepbrother Narayanaswamy and his wife Nagamma for killing his pet dog. The accused are residents of Reddyhalli and the incident happened near the complainant's house, around 9.15pm on Tuesday.

"My dog had not spoiled his crop, it was damaged by street dogs. Narayanaswamy and his wife wanted a reason to pick a fight with us, and shot my dog. Before killing the innocent dog, they pointed the gun at me, my wife and daughter-in-law and issued life threats. The entire incident has been captured on CCTV," Venkatesh said. A video of the incident has gone viral.

Venkatesh's father had two wives, and Narayanaswamy is the son of the second wife. The ancestral property is said to be divided among four sons. Venkatesh, who also runs a chicken stall, lives in his farmhouse in Nalluru. Adjacent to the complainant's house, the accused had cultivated cauliflower, which was damaged when stray dogs entered the field.

An officer said, "The case is under investigation and legal action is being taken against the accused couple. We are checking if the accused has a licence to carry a gun."

Channarayapatna police of Doddaballapura sub-division registered a case against the couple under the Indian Arms Act, 1959, Prevention of Animal Sacrifice Act, 1959, and other sections of the BNS.

Man found hanging in Cubbon Park

BENGALURU: The body of a man from West Bengal was found hanging from a tree in Cubbon Park on Friday morning. Suresh, the deceased, went missing on Thursday and his family members filed a complaint with HSR Layout police the same day. He worked at a cell phone repair shop on SJP Road. "The body was found by morning walkers. The deceased might be in his late 20s. Based on an ID card from his pocket, the police informed his family members. The reasons for his suicide are being ascertained," a police officer said. The police suspect that Suresh might have taken his life after the park was closed for visitors. **ENS**

SACRIFICE FOR SALVATION

Members of the St Theresa's Church on JC Road in Bengaluru enact Jesus Christ's Way to Cross on the occasion of Good Friday. Christians observe the day in remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

2 druggies rob rehab centre owner, auto driver, 1 held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Bagalur police arrested one of the two men who had escaped after attacking the owner of a rehabilitation centre at Haralur in HSR Layout on March 1. The duo had later robbed an auto driver. Both the accused were drug addicts and admitted to the rehabilitation centre.

The accused used the mobile phone of the centre's owner and booked an autorickshaw through an app. Enroute, they attacked and robbed the driver of his auto and other valuables. Of the two accused, Khanish (24), from Jonnahalli in Devanahalli taluk, was arrested from the same rehabilitation centre. Search for the other accused is on.

The duo boarded the auto at Huskuru near Electronic City and headed towards KIADB Industrial Area at Jonnahalli. They attacked the driver with a knife and robbed him of valuables. The auto driver later filed a police complaint. The accused had sold the auto for Rs 5,000 in Malur taluk, Kolar district. Through technical leads, the police arrested Khanish from the rehab centre on March 25 as he had returned after the robbery.

The police recovered goods worth around Rs 3.2 lakh, including the auto, two mobile phones of the driver and one mobile phone of the rehab centre's owner.

EXPRESS READ

Biker on way to work run over by KSRTC bus

Bengaluru: R Purushotham (30), a resident of Palana Jogihalli in Doddaballapura, died after he was run over by a speeding KSRTC bus on Doddaballapura-Gauribidanur road on Thursday. The victim, on his way to work had slowed down for a U turn in Palana Jogihalli at around 9.15am. An overspeeding bus hit the bike, killing Purushotham on the spot. The Doddaballapura Rural police have arrested the bus driver and have seized the KSRTC bus. Lakshmamma, the mother of the deceased, has filed a complaint against the bus driver.

RSAOI Bengaluru celebrates Army Medical Corps Day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Rajendra Sinhji Army Officers' Institute (RSAOI) in Bengaluru celebrated the 262nd Army Medical Corps Day on April 2, honouring the service of medical professionals in the Indian Armed Forces.

The event commemorated the contributions of doctors and paramedics serving in the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.

Air Marshal Seethepalli Shrinivas, the chief guest, praised military medical officers for their dedication and service. Air Vice Marshal Renuka Kunte highlighted the ongoing modernisation of field medical units and military hospitals, stressing the need to strengthen healthcare support systems for armed forces personnel.

POCSO advisory for pvt hospitals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Department of Women and Child Development has issued a circular directing private hospitals to strictly comply with reporting requirements under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

All private hospitals have been asked to immediately inform the police or the Special Juvenile Police Unit if they come across cases of child sexual abuse. Hospitals are often the first point of contact for victims and play a crucial role in ensuring timely intervention.

The department said that legal action will be initiated against private hospitals which fail to report such cases. Suppression or delay in reporting will hinder investigations and compromise the safety of the victim.

The hospitals have also been asked to sensitise their staff and ensure that proper protocols are followed while handling such cases. Childline 1098 could be used to support children in distress.

The move aims at ensuring accountability among private hospitals while handling cases of child sexual abuse.

DUO HITCHES RIDE, ROBS MANAGER

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TWO robbers who attacked and mugged a wedding hall manager, after hitching a ride on his two-wheeler around 2.30am on March 25, are now arrested by the Chikkajala police.

The accused, Sandeep alias Sandy (26) from Hosahalli main road, and Shyam (23) from Janatha Quarters, stopped the victim's vehicle requesting for a lift, claiming that there was no public transport at the time. The duo attacked the manager with a knife on Hosahalli Road and escaped with his two-wheeler, mobile phone and cash.

The victim is a wedding hall manager in Nellukunte in Chikkajala. The complaint was filed at Chikkajala police on March 26. The accused were arrested on the same day near Hunasamaranahalli. Valuables estimated around Rs 2.2 lakhs are recovered.

FOCUS FEATURE AN SMD INITIATIVE

KIIT Achieves Global Distinction with Prestigious QS 5-Star Rating Among the top seven universities in India

PLATINUM
QS I-GAUGE
INDIAN UNIVERSITY RATINGS
★★★★★ QS RATED EXCELLENT

In a significant achievement, KIIT-DU has been awarded the coveted overall 5-Star Rating by QS Stars, an internationally recognised benchmark for institutional excellence, thereby reinforcing its global standing.

QS is an international ranking platform, and this prestigious recognition follows a rigorous and comprehensive audit process facilitated by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of KIIT. The evaluation was conducted by QS (Quacquarelli Symonds), assessing the university across multiple performance indicators aligned with global standards.

According to the official QS Stars certificate, KIIT has been "Rated for Excellence" after thorough independent data collection and analysis of performance metrics.

KIIT demonstrated world-class performance across nine critical parameters, grouped into three major pillars: Teaching, Research, and Employability; Global Engagement; Facilities; Good Governance; Social Impact; Arts; and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

The QS Stars rating system is known for evaluating universities beyond traditional rankings, offering deeper insight into institutional strengths, diversity, and impact. The recognition places KIIT among an elite group of world-class institutions known for delivering quality education and fostering innovation.

- KIIT awarded prestigious QS 5-Star Rating, placing it among globally recognised institutions for excellence
- Ranked among the top seven universities in India with QS I-GAUGE Platinum status
- Demonstrated world-class performance across key areas including teaching, research, employability, global engagement, and social impact

Further strengthening its credentials, KIIT has also received the QS I-GAUGE Platinum rating, a top-tier recognition within India's university rating framework. KIIT is among the top seven universities in India to have attained this QS I-GAUGE status.

KIIT is also among the few universities in India to have secured impressive rankings in both THE and QS, surpassing many prominent universities in the country. From its inception, KIIT has consistently maintained the highest standards of quality and excellence. The university has been accredited by premier national bodies such as NAAC and NBA, reaffirming its academic credibility. Notably, KIIT stands out as the only university in India to hold prestigious international accreditations from both ABET (USA) and Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), United Kingdom.

Expressing his happiness over the achievement, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT, KISS & KIMS, said that it has been made possible by the combined effort of the staff of KIIT and the goodwill of its well-wishers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the undersigned advocate on behalf of my client **Govindaraju and other** petitioners says that, Mother of the Petitioner No.1 to 4, namely **Muniyamma @ Doddamuniyamma W/o Late Krishnappa, died on 13.03.1995** at their residence in Bettenahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. If any dispute regarding the same can appear before the HON'BLE II ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DEVANAHALLI on date of hearing **on 13.05.2026 in C.Mis.No. 385/2025.**

By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
MAHESH DAS & NAGESHA .T. Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under instructions from and on behalf of my Client, Sri Dharmendra Kumar Sharma, S/o Late Sri Ram Gopal Sharma, it is hereby notified to the general public that my Client is the **absolute owner in possession and enjoyment** of the Schedule Property described herein below.

It is further notified that, a **portion of the Schedule Property was notified for acquisition for a public purpose,** pursuant to which my Client had relinquished the required extent, and the **Competent Authority has issued Development Rights Certificate(s) (DRC)** in favour of my Client.

It is further notified that, my Client had entered into an **Agreement of Sale dated 22.04.2015** in respect of certain rights arising out of the said property and the DRC. However, **due to non-compliance of contractual obligations and for other legal and factual reasons,** the said Agreement of Sale, along with all related and connected documents including any purported assignment(s), has been **cancelled, terminated, and rescinded,** and the same is **void, unenforceable, and not binding** on my Client.

Accordingly, it is hereby made clear that **no right, title, interest, or claim of whatsoever nature can be claimed by any person under or through the said Agreement of Sale dated 22.04.2015 or any documents arising therefrom.**

The general public is therefore **strictly cautioned** not to enter into any transaction, deal with, or create any third-party rights in respect of the Schedule Property or any **Transferable Development Rights (TDR/DRC)** arising therefrom based on the said Agreement of Sale or any connected documents.

Any person acting in contravention of this notice shall do so **entirely at their own risk as to costs and consequences**, and my Client shall not be responsible or bound by any such acts or transactions.

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing, **Survey No. 24/1** measuring **14 Guntas**, and **Survey No. 8/1** measuring **1 Acre 26 Guntas**, totally measuring **2 Acres**, situated at Chikkabellandur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk.

Boundaries:- East by: Property of Sri Muniyappa Naidu, West by: Property of Sri Martin in Sy. No. 27/1, North by: Chikkabellandur to Mullur Road & Sy. No. 8/1, South by: Portion of Sy. No. 24/2 and property of Ranganath

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that portion of Schedule 'A' Property relinquished for road widening, measuring **1207 Square Meters** (129,923.77 sq. feet) Situated in **Sy. No. 24/1 and 8/1**, Chikkabellandur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk.

Boundaries:- East by: Remaining portion in Sy. Nos. 8/1 and 24/1, West by: Remaining portion in Sy. Nos. 8/1 and 24/1, North by: Chikkabellandur–Mullur Road, South by: Chikkabellandur–Mullur Road

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY

Transferable Development Rights (TDR)/ Development Right Certificate Issued to Schedule B Property.

Sunil P Prasad
Tapasya Law Chambers,
No.1954, 20th E Cross, Block 'C',
Sahakar Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 092
Email: sunil@tapasyalaw.in
tapasyalaw@gmail.com
PH: 080 23623483, Mob: 963 2222 483

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -I,
BSNL Building, 4th Floor,
Telephone House ,Rajbhavan Road,
Bangalore -560 001

O.A. No.397/2022

BETWEEN : STATE BANK OF INDIA, RASMEC, Hosur Branch. **...Applicant**
AND
Rashmi A and Others ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDENT No. 1 to 4 UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To, 1. Mrs. Rashmi A, W/o. Shri Ajit S Chiniwal, Aged about 38 years, No. 1542BBMP (M CORP+OG), 8th Cross, 2nd Phase, BBMP (M COR+OG), MCECHS Layout, Bengaluru - 560 064, Karnataka.

Also at : No. 1720/23, 5th Cross, S. S. Layout A Bank, Behind Ashakiran School, Davanagere, Karnataka

Also at: Cognizant Technologies, Manyata Business Park, Nagawara, Bengaluru.

2. Mr. A. R. Shyamasundar S/o. Late A. M. Ramakrishnappa, Aged about 48 Years, R/at: Door No. 225, Anekal Main Road, Attibele Village and Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru.

3.Mr. A. N. Venu S/o. Late Narayanaswamy, Aged about 39 Years, R/at:Ballapa Street, Attibele Village and Hobli, Bengaluru District, Represented by their GPA Holder M/s. Sigma Builders.

4 M/s. Sigma Builders, Having Office at Sy. No. 223, Attibele Sarjapur Road, Indlabele Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru, Represented by its Managing Partner Mr. Balaji T., .

Whereas the Applicant has instituted and application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against the above defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.41,53,541/-** (Rupees Forty One Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Five Hundred and Forty One Only) along with future interest @8.60% per annum with monthly rests from the date of filing of the Application till final repayment/satisfaction of the entire dues of the Applicant.

Take notice that you are hereby required to show cause within 30 days of service of summons through Paper Publication on **07.05.2026 at 11.a.m.** in person by a Pleader /advocate duly instructed as to why the relief's prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **09.10.2025**

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -I.

Advocate for Applicant
Vasantha Shetty M.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No.01/2026 Dt.02.04.2026 PUB/016

Supply of Stores Items
E-Procurement Tender Notice

The following tenders have been floated online. Tenders are requested to visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in** and submit their offers online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender closing time is **14.30** hrs of the due date of the tender. "For all Indigenous Offers, EMD will be accepted only via online system as available on **www.ireps.gov.in**."

Tender No.	Brief Description
6026PT017	Procurement of R-260 Welding portion
LW265018	Light Weight Track Measuring Trolley (LWTMT) RDSO NO.TM/SM/FRS/013
29265004	Supply and installation of thermal
56265137	6 Quad cable 1.4mm Dia Copper Conductor
60265228	Procurement of various types of Stretcher Bars
6026PT015	Procurement of HVN Liner RDSO Drg No.T-3706 & RDSO Drg no-T-8751
43265001	Supply Installation &Commissioning of CMS KIOSKs consists
LT255299A	Supply Installation & Commissioning of Diesel Generator 500 KVA with AMF Control Panel

Note:- Due dates of Tender Opening

SL. No. 01 on dt. 21.04.2026, SL. No. 02 on dt. 22.04.2026, SL. No. 03 on dt. 27.04.2026, SL. No. 04 on dt. 01.05.2026, SL. No. 05 & 06 on dt. 04.05.2026, SL. No. 07 on dt. 06.05.2026, SL. No. 08 on dt .08.05.2026

Beside above mentioned Tenders There are other Tenders having **value above Rs. 50 Lakhs** for details, please visit Railway website above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/ Secunderabad
A020

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at http://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

LOST

I, C.PRAKASH SALI residing at No.125, 4th Cross, MEI Layout, Nagasandra Post, Bangalore – 560073 have lost Original Registered Sale Deed, **Doc No.6174/1999-2000 registered on 15-12-1999** in respect of apartment (Premeir Gruhalakshmi) bearing No.B-008, Ground floor, Sy No.13/2 of Peenya Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli. **If anybody finds it, please inform either me on 6363382863 or the nearest Police Station.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, hereby notifying general public and financial institutions that my clients Smt.Thriveni.M D/o Muniraju, aged about 33 years and Smt. Manasa.V W/o Hemanth Kumar.V, aged about 27 years, residents of Vajrakattepalya, Kachanahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk have negotiated to purchase the schedule property from **Sri. Muniyappa S/o late Papanna and his family members.** Any family members of vendors, financial institutions and the general public are hereby notified that if anybody has any objections, claims, charges, lien etc., if any in respect of the schedule properties may lodge their objections with documentary proof relied upon with the undersigned Advocate within **Seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, my clients proceeds to complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being **Sy.No. 136/8 Old Sy.No.136, measuring 1-00 acre 0-06 guntasm situated at Baradi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** and bounded as follows :- **EAST BY** : Property Sy.No. 136/9, **WEST BY** : Property Sy.No. 135 **NORTH BY :** Property Sy.No. 136/3 and 136/7, **SOUTH BY :** Road.

OMKARA MURTHY .G
LEGAL COMBAT Advocates,
No.21, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003.
Bangalore Date: 02-04-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client intends to purchase the Agricultural Land properties described in the Schedule below ("Schedule Properties") from its Owner, Sri. Rangaswamy NS, S/o. Siddalingaiah, residing at #168, 7th main, 6th phase, 1st stage Mahaganapathi Nagar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010. Owner has represented that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Properties and has not encumbered, mortgaged, created any charge or lien on the Schedule Properties and no other person has any manner of right, title or interest thereon.

Any Person/s having any claim(s) to the title of the Schedule Properties or Objections to the proposed sale, are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned with valid and legal documentary evidence within 10 (Ten) days from the date of this notice. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that the said Owner has a clear and marketable title to the Schedule Properties and that no person has any claim over the Schedule Properties and/or claim/s if any, will be deemed to have been waived

SCHEDULE

All the Rural Agricultural Land properties described below situated at Basavasagara C Kaval Village 572225, Dandinashivara Hobli, Turuvekere Taluk, Tumkur District and bounded as follows:

ITEM NO. 1: Survey No. 161/1, measuring **2 Acres 0 Guntas**.
Bounded on:
East by: Govt. Land. & Land in Sy. No.1/* **West by:** Land in Sy. No. 164/1 **North by:** Land in Sy. No.162 **South by:** Land in Sy. No. 161/2

ITEM NO. 2: Survey No. 162 measuring **4 Acres 0 Guntas**.
Bounded on:
East by: Govt. Land. And Land in Sy. No. 1/* **West by:** Land in Sy. No. 163. **North by:** Govt. Land. & Land in Sy. No.1/***South by:** Land in Sy. No. 161/1

ITEM NO. 3: Survey No. 164/1 measuring **2 Acres 0 Guntas**.
Bounded on:
East by: Land in Sy. No. 161/1,**West by:** Land in Sy. No. 167/3 and 167/1 **North by:** Land in Sy. No.163, **South by:** Land in Sy.No. 164/2

ITEM NO. 4: Survey No. 167/3 measuring **1 Acres 0 Guntas**.
Bounded on:
East by: Land in Sy. No. 164/1,**West by:** Public Road
North by: Land in Sy. No. 167/1,**South by:** Land in Sy. No. 167/2

B.A. AKSHAY KUMAR, ADVOCATE
Asha Nilaya, Halsulige Post Magadi Village, Sakleshpura Taluk, Hassan District
Email: akshaybantwal1@gmail.com
Ph. 9845149728

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Mrs. FASIHA KHAN, Aged about 37 years, Wife of Mr. Mohsin Khan, Residing at No. 202, 10th Cross, Willams Town Jayamahal Benson Town, Bangalore-560 046. Has lost the Original Parent Documents Bearing No.KCH-1-03397-2015-16, Book-1, CD No. KCHD196, Dated 18-08-2015 Registered in the Office of SRO Gandhinagar, (Kacharakanahalli), Bangalore. While Painting/Renovation of the House Originals Parent Documents is misplaced/ lost and she has made a reasonable and diligent search for the lost Documents, but failed in that attempt. also filed Compliant in concerned Police Station Vide E Lost Report No.2137285/2026 dated 03-04-2026.

All that Piece and Parcel of the Residential Property bearing Site No. 10/1, Katha No. 58, Situated at Kadugondanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, Now Comes under BBMP Limits, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South (20 + 10)/2 Feet totally measuring 450 Square Feet. And bounded on

East by : Road, West by : Site No.18, North by : Site No.10, South by : Raj Kalve.

If Any person found the Document No.KCH-1-03397-2015-16, Book-1, CD No. KCHD196, Dated 18-08-2015 Registered in the Office of SRO Gandhinagar, (Kacharakanahalli), Bangalore. May contact my Client 9980493099

SD/- **(SATISH PRASAD R)** Advocate
NO.68, 7TH CROSS, 5TH MAIN ROAD, NEW BAGALUR ST THOMAS TOWN, BANGALORE-560084. MOBILE: 8892346567
DATE: 03-04-2026

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE HASSAN-573201

Email:hassanapmc@gmail.com, 08172–256186,
No: /APMC(Hsn)/ 01 /2026-27, Date: 01.04.2026

-: Tender Notice:-

The following work has been sanctioned by the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee, Hassan under the Annual Action Plan for the year 2025-26 Tenders are invited through https://WWW.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in. Last date for submission of tenders: 18.04.2026 at 16:00, 1) Tender No: APMC/2025 26/OW/WORK_INDENT914) Tender Type and Reservation Details: Item wise e-tender General Category KW-4 3) Estimated amount of tender (excluding GST) Rs.1,27,34,657.38 in lakhs, 4) EMD (in Rs.): Rs.2,00,000/- For more information, visit the Karnataka Government website at: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and obtain it during office hours.

Sd/- Secretary APMC, Hassan **Sd/- Administrator APMC, Hassan**

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/06/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to arrive in Bengaluru on Friday night to take part in the 9th session of the 'Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha', being organised by the Adichunchungiri Mahasansthan Math. He will take part in the second day event on Saturday. Acharyas from across the country are attending the convention

BJP's lies reflect fear of bypoll defeat: CM

Says saffron party is so desperate that it allowed expelled MLA Yatnal to campaign

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bagalkot

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday accused BJP of spreading misinformation fearing defeat in the byelections. "BJP is known for spreading canards and misleading people. There is no truth in their statements and they do not act according to what they say. Their remarks reflect anxiety over losing the bypolls," he told the media after arriving in Bagalkot to campaign for Congress candidate Umesh Meti.

On expelled MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal campaigning in Bagalkot, he said the saffron party is so desperate that it has even allowed their expelled MLA to campaign for the party. This shows the contradictory and hypocritical nature of the BJP, he added.

He termed Union Minister of State V Somanna a "minister without work" as no file goes to him for approval. He dismissed Somanna's remarks questioning his tenure as CM. "Somanna himself is not actively campaigning as he knows BJP will lose in the constituency," he said.

On the proposal of the Union government to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats in the country, Siddaramaiah said representation should be based on population, but cautioned against any step-motherly treatment towards southern states. "There should be no attempt to reduce seats in the South, while increasing them in northern states," he said.

Addressing concerns over gas cylinder shortage, he said it was the responsibility of the Centre to ensure supply as the state's job is only distribution to consumers.

Responding to BJP state president BY Vijayendra's claim that the bypoll outcome would impact his position as CM, he asserted that Congress will win decisively and such speculation is baseless.

On allegations regarding allocation of funds to minorities, he clarified that minorities constitute 14% of the population and have been provided grants along with all other communities. "Are minorities not citizens of this state," he asked.

Reiterating that BJP has no authority over Congress decisions, Siddaramaiah said leaders like Rahul and Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra constitute the party's high command.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah being felicitated during a Congress campaign in Bevinamatti village of Bagalkot taluk on Friday | EXPRESS

ASSEMBLY BYPOLL POLL WALL

How can a shaky CM ensure Cong win, says Ashoka

ENS @ Davanagere

LEADER of Opposition R Ashoka on Friday taunted Chief Minister Siddaramaiah that he is not even certain of continuing in the top post for the five-year full term.

Ashoka asked how could a shaky CM guarantee the Congress victory in Davanagere South byelection. He called the CM casteist for conducting caste census in the state.

He pointed out that even the Congress MLAs have admitted that Guarantee Schemes have stalled development works in the state. Instead of issuing notices to the Congress MLAs, Chief Minister is criticising the BJP. The CM is raising the issue of LPG and petrol price rise in the bypoll campaign since he has no other issues, he added.

"When Siddaramaiah stepped down as CM in 2018, the state's loan stood at Rs 23,000 crore. The government has to repay loans made by previous governments. For the last three years Siddaramaiah has become 'Sullu Ramaiah' by not giving a clear picture about the state's fiscal situation. The CM is even taking credit for the centrally sponsored Anna Bhagya scheme, he said.

Meanwhile, former ministers CT Ravi and B Sriramulu too joined the byelection campaign trail for the BJP.

Siddu govt a den of corruption, says Somanna

Union Minister V Somanna addresses the media in Baglakot on Friday | EXPRESS

Bagalkot: Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna on Friday accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of pushing Karnataka into a "dark phase" through corruption, nepotism and administrative apathy. Speaking to reporters while campaigning for BJP's Bagalkot candidate Veeranna Charantimath, he claimed that ruling party legislators have failed to maintain accountability, with many unable to confidently present their development work before the public. Criticising the Congress, he said corruption is rampant across departments and basic infrastructure has been neglected. He termed the administration "indifferent", saying that Congress leaders are busy fighting over issues like the CM's post and not focusing on the welfare of people. On central schemes, Somanna said under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the Centre released Rs 28,000 crore, but the state has not used the funds fully. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has increased allocations to Rs 97,000 crore for rural development and improving living standards, but the state government has failed to effectively utilise such funds," he said. ENS

MY TAKE

BIOGAS: THE GO-TO OPTION FOR 'LPG-MUKT' KARNATAKA

NIRAD MUDUR
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OFTEN, worrisome situations can throw up solutions to problems caused by them. In the current scenario, with the war in West Asia threatening shortage of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), turning towards biogas as the go-to option, is one such.

Biogas is produced from biomass sources like agricultural residues, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, municipal solid waste, and sewage treatment plant waste. It is an anaerobic decomposition process wherein microorganisms break down organic materials in sealed oxygen-free chambers, called digesters. While biogas can replace LPG, Compressed biogas (CBG) (made by removing carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulphide and moisture from raw biogas), has properties similar to Compressed Natural Gas and can be utilized as green renewable alternative automotive fuel, completely replacing CNG in automotive, industrial, and commercial sectors. Biogas production can be endlessly sustained with the availability of abundant biomass.

Karnataka annually generates 40,31,060 tonnes of municipal solid waste (the volumes are much more if unaccounted waste from rural areas is included); 21,90,000 tonnes of wet/kitchen waste, 16,27,170 million litres of sewage and significantly high agricultural waste and cattle dung, the volume of the latter depending on the size of the livestock. This is a significant volume for sustaining biogas production and replacing LPG for cooking and other energy needs in households as well as various other sectors, replacing conventional energy sources, which are currently threatened due to the war.

A study titled "Bioresource Potential of Karnataka (Taluk-wise inventory with management options)" by eminent ecologist Prof TV Ramachandra and Kamakshi G of Energy & Wetlands Research Group, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, over two decades ago in November 2005, says Karnataka's bioenergy surplus zones are the central dry zone (covering the entire district of Bidar and parts of Gulbarga district), southern transition zone (parts of Hassan, Chikmagalur, Shivamogga, Mysuru and a portion of Tumakuru district), hilly zone (parts of Uttara Kannada, Belagavi, Shivamogga, Chikmagalur, Haveri, Kodagu and one taluk of Hassan) and the coastal zone (parts of Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada district). In the southern transition zone, about 1,27,769 hectares of wasteland are available for energy plantation. In the hilly and coastal zones, the extent of wastelands available for energy plantations is 2,37,371 hectares and 8,80,189 hectares, respectively, which can be utilised for raising energy plantation comprising of acacia auriculiformis, casuarina and eucalyptus species, the study points out.

"Assuming an average biomass productivity of 5 tonnes per hectare per year, the total exploitable biomass available from these plantations would be 44,00,945 tonnes annually. With the population increasing rapidly, the existing bioresource can be sustained by using other energy alternatives like biogas," it states.

This may have given Karnataka its advantage in biogas production. The state is already a top performer in biogas infrastructure, ranking among the top three in India in terms of number of functional biogas plants, with over 5 lakh plants installed. It ranks second in the number of small-scale/family-type biogas plants installed under the National Biogas and Manure Management Programme, holding a significant portion of the total plants installed in the country between 1981-82 and 2020-21, and contributing over 20% to the national bioeconomy. It is estimated that Karnataka annually produces a total 82.13 crore cubic metres of biogas, compared to India's total biogas production of 207 crore cubic metres, with a huge potential to increase it to 4,800 crore cubic metres per year.

But more needs to be done. Clean energy generation is a win-win option. It takes care of the generated waste, which otherwise poses a humongous challenge over its disposal, especially in a city like Bengaluru, where landfill options are limited. Increasing biogas production kills two birds with one stone – it considerably reduces handling waste disposal, while bringing abundant clean energy alternatives by converting waste to energy. Besides, it also generates local employment involving production and processing of wood feedstock, operation of biogas plants, while promoting self-reliance and improving the quality of life, especially of women and the rural poor.

The welcome result is: reducing – and ultimately eliminating – dependence on LPG, 60% of the country's demand for which is currently met through imports, 20% of it coming through the Strait of Hormuz, the epicentre of the war. The situation has forced India to look at alternatives to its main suppliers, Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait – all targeted by Iran in the current war – and increasing LPG imports from the USA, Argentina and Australia to sustain domestic demand, but paying a higher price. In this scenario, biogas is the main go-to option to eliminate dependence on LPG.

As Karnataka is on the verge of formulating a biogas policy, the 2005 IISc study's valuable observation needs to be heeded by the state government: "Although bioenergy provides significant environmental and social benefits, large-scale shift towards this option cannot be realized in the absence of a whole range of policy measures. A well-established network between the government, local people, NGOs together with technical expertise and financial backup will help in building a society sustaining on bioenergy."

BJP releases chargesheet against govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Davanagere

THE BJP on Friday released a chargesheet against the state government's alleged mismanagement ahead of the byelections. BJP former national general secretary and Legislative Council member CT Ravi said corruption and price hike have made life impossible for people in the last three years under the Congress government.

The state is in second place in farmer suicides. Even government employees have committed suicide. There are no medicines in government hospitals. Guest lecturers and contract employees do not get salaries. Roads are in bad shape and many people die in road accidents, especially in Bengaluru, he alleged. He said that the Congress government is in the news always for wrong reasons and not for development.

"In his speech, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the BJP is disgraceful. Which chief ministers are disgraceful? Who is involved in the Muda scam? Didn't a minister in your government resign over the Valmiki Development Corporation scam? Isn't this a disgraceful act, asked Ravi. You came to power by blaming the BJP for 40 per cent commission. Didn't the contractors accuse your government of being a government with 60 per cent commission? said the BJP leader.

If not for our guarantees, people would have suffered, says DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Davanagere

LAUDING the foresight of former minister Dr Shamanur Shivashankarappa, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday said the development work undertaken in Davanagere is truly remarkable and compares with projects in Bengaluru.

He told media persons, "98% of women in the constituency are beneficiaries of guarantee schemes. Around 60,000 women are availing the Gruhalakshmi scheme, while 61,000 families are beneficiaries of the Gruha Jyoti scheme. Annabhagya has benefited 1.45 lakh people. Regardless of the opposition maligning our initiatives, women firmly assured me that they will vote for the Congress candidate."

He said, "Shamanur Shivashankarappa has served society in this region with remarkable distinction by building hospitals, community halls and educational institutions that continue to benefit vast sections of people. I also met several traders, who told me that under Shivashankarappa, their businesses thrived and they did not encounter any major difficulties. I was particularly encouraged to witness well-laid roads and improved housing."

He said, "Shivashankarappa provided 15,000 homes to the poor and ensured separate land allotted for all communities.

Residents of Davanagere city show their suppport for Congress candidate Samarth Shamanur during his campaign on Friday | EXPRESS

Confident of winning both bypolls: Siddu

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday said he is confident that Congress will win both byelections. Replying to Vijayendra's criticism of "Salada Ramaiah" (Ramaiah making loans), he said, "Vijayendra speaks without knowing the Fiscal Responsibility Act. Let him understand it and speak."

We are confident that people will elect Samarth Shamanur with an even larger margin than Shivashankarappa."

He said, "We are confident of winning both Davanagere South and Bagalkot bypolls. In these times, when prices of risen because of war in West Asia, our guarantee schemes have brought relief to the poor. I urge the Centre to ensure timely and proper supply of essential commodities, including LPG."

Asked whether this contest is essentially "DK Shivakumar versus Siddaramaiah," he said, "We brought this government to power together, and we will bring it back to power together as well. All party workers and all 78 lakh members stand with me. Everyone has come to Davanagere South like soldiers and thrown themselves into the campaign."

Asked about the claim that if the party wins in Davanagere it will be because of Lingayats, and if it loses it will be because of Muslims, he said, "We do not concern ourselves with such labels. We are Congress, and all communities are with us. We do politics based on policy, not on caste."

HDK SLAMS CM'S REMARKS ON DYNASTIC POLITICS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

UNION Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Friday launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, accusing him of "hypocrisy" in the ongoing debate over dynastic politics and questioning his moral authority to comment on the issue.

Speaking to reporters in Mandya, The JDS leader strongly objected to Siddaramaiah allegedly dragging the family of JDS supremo and former PM H D Deve Gowda into discussions on family-based politics.

While expressing grief over the untimely demise of Siddaramaiah's elder son, Kumaraswamy raised questions about the political induction of his younger son. "Was he brought into politics for public service or for other reasons? That is something Siddaramaiah himself must answer," he said.

Taking a swipe at Siddaramaiah's political future, Kumaraswamy said the CM's continuation in office would ultimately be decided by the people in the next election. He recalled that Siddaramaiah had earlier described a past election as his last, but continues to remain active in politics. "Now, he says he will continue in politics as long as he lives and even claims he will remain CM till 2028. After tasting power, such statements are being made. Ultimately, it is the people who will decide," he added.

Lok Bhavan writes to CS, seeks review of third language grading

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

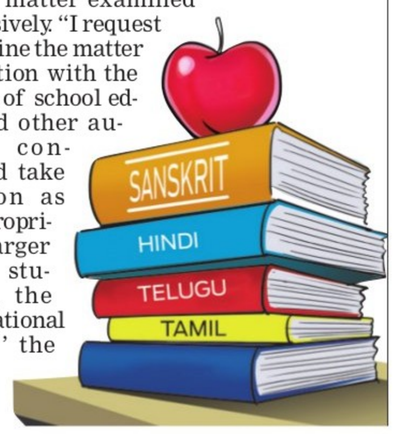
THE Lok Bhavan (governor's office) has written to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, expressing concern over the government's decision to award only grades, and not marks, for the third language in SSLC examinations.

The letter urged the chief secretary to review the matter in consultation with the department of school education and other authorities.

The governor's special secretary also forwarded a copy of a representation submitted to Lok Bhavan by the Bengaluru-based Association for Preservation of Local Languages, concerning the recent decision to give only grades for the third language in SSLC.

The letter stated that the representation highlights the significant role played by third languages in fostering linguistic diversity, awareness and intellectual development among students. It pointed out that the proposed system of awarding only grades may inadvertently diminish the academic importance of the subject and affect students' motivation to engage seriously with it. The concerns raised also reflect apprehensions among teachers, parents and educationists on the long-term implications of such a decision on the overall quality and inclusiveness of school education in the state, it stated.

The letter stated that the governor took note of the issues raised in the representation and wanted the matter examined comprehensively. "I request you to examine the matter in consultation with the department of school education and other authorities concerned, and take such action as deemed appropriate in the larger interest of students and the state's educational objectives,'' the special secretary's letter stated.



Prabha's speech in Hindi sets off debate on lingo politics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru/ Davangere:

A FRESH political debate has erupted in Karnataka over language politics, after voices linked to the BJP and RSS criticised Congress leaders for speaking in Hindi during a recent outreach in Davangere.

The controversy began after Congress MP Prabha Mallikarjun addressed members of the Muslim community and reportedly used Hindi in parts of her speech, seeking support for her son Shamanur Samarth Mallikarjun. This drew sharp reactions on social media, particularly from individuals aligned with the BJP and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Social media user Sheetal Chopra, who described herself as an RSS swayamsevika, criticised the Congress for what she termed as "double standards" on language. In a strongly worded post, she alleged that while the party opposes Hindi in Karnataka politics, it resorts to the language when addressing specific communities.

Political analyst BS Murthy said the issue should be viewed in a broader national context. He noted that several MPs from southern states, including Tejasvi Surya, have demonstrated proficiency in Hindi while participating in parliamentary debates. "However, the question remains as to how many MPs from North India make an effort to speak in southern languages such as Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam or Telugu," Murthy remarked. He explained that during elections, people may approach voters in different languages, but that cannot be a reflection of the state's policy on languages.

South Western Railway's Mysuru Divisional Manager Mudit Mittal has announced that a dedicated depot for Vande Bharat trains will be set up at the Mysuru New Goods Terminal. He said maintaining Vande Bharat trains requires specialised systems, and the new facility will enable their stabling and servicing in Mysuru

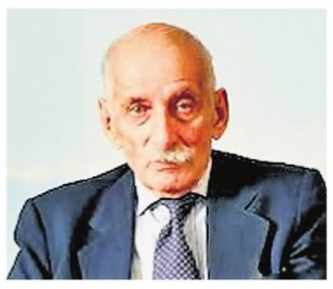
Manekshaw, architect of 1971 victory, laughed much, cared deeply

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

THE man who led India to its glorious victory in the 13-day war in the winter of 1971, which ended with the creation of Bangladesh and surrender of 93,000 Pakistani troops whom he treated with dignity and respect -- the late Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw - **Sam Manekshaw** (1914-2008) -- was a warm, demonstrative father to his two daughters. On his 112th birth anniversary (April 3, 1914) his younger daughter Maja Daruwala, a long-time advocate of human rights and presently Chief Editor of 'The India Justice Report', recalled to TNIE that her father was very human; a very demonstrative and warm person.

"We had a very happy childhood. He could have directed us and pontificated like parents do, but he absolutely didn't lecture us ever. But at the same time, it was very easy to follow him. Guidance from both our parents came unspoken through their example," she said. "At home, father wore no aura of heroism. He saw his role in the military as doing his duty, which had to be done and done with professionalism and honour. There was no question of glorifying it," she said.

Recalling instances of her childhood, Daruwala said she and her sister were good at playing crossword puzzles, and



their father "who could solve much fewer of the clues would nevertheless sit between us and would insist on holding the book and pen to write down our answers. He used to laugh at himself and that was so endearing to all. He had many hobbies and he took the whole family along with every new passion. He taught us about fishing. He took up photography and my sister had to pose for him under hot lights. He loved creating a garden. He would hold our hands and take us around teaching us the names of every tree and flower. He did the same with my children. He teased his siblings and cracked the same jokes for 50 years," said Daruwala.

As a young captain, Manekshaw was hit by seven to nine machine-gun bullets in the stomach and lungs at the Battle of Sittang Bridge during the 1942 Burma Campaign of World War II. The then Maj Gen DT Cowan pinned his own Military Cross on Manekshaw for his valour. "His sense of humour saved him when he joked to his surgeon, who was about to leave him lying there critically wounded, saying that he was kicked by a mule. The surgeon, impressed by the boy's sense of humour, worked to save him," she recalled.

"Once, as a child, I was looking at his wounds and I said vengefully that I hoped that the Japanese soldier, who had emptied his weapon into him, was killed. I still remember what my father said, 'Poor bugger, he was just a young boy. I was lucky I survived and got home. But he never got to go home!' The way he answered spoke a lot about him; about the futility of a war in which two young soldiers of equal value were involved. One survived, the other did not. He conveyed the immense sense of tragedy therein," said Daruwala.

Much later, in December 1971, Manekshaw demonstrated that same humanity when he was in charge of 93,000 Pakistani troopers held prisoners of war in India after the India-Pakistan war. "He treated them with utter respect, as per the Geneva Convention, like a soldier should treat another soldier. It said a lot about India, the Indian Army; its ethics and values, the duty to your country. That people, including the young, remember him with such fondness is deeply gratifying for us" said the fond daughter.

Former Lokayukta Justice Santosh Hegde being escorted after he collapsed on stage in Bengaluru on Friday | EXPRESS

Santosh Hegde collapses on stage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

FORMER Lokayukta Justice N Santosh Hegde collapsed on stage during a programme organised by Bharat Scouts and Guides at Basappa Kondajji Community Hall in Bengaluru on Friday. He reportedly vomited during the event, briefly got up, and then collapsed, triggering concern among those present. He was immediately rushed to Manipal Hospital on Millers Road in a vehicle arranged by Assembly Speaker UT Khader, who was also attending the programme. Khader later visited Hegde at the hospital and said he is doing well, is conscious and has been speaking with family members. While some initial speculation pointed to low sugar levels, the exact cause of the collapse is yet to be confirmed. He was discharged later.

40 injured as two buses collide head-on near Sirsi

Front portions of both buses badly damaged due to impact

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

AT least 40 people sustained injuries in a bus accident near Sirsi in Uttara Kannada district. The incident occurred on Friday afternoon when two buses travelling at high speed on the Kumta–Sirsi highway collided head-on at Kolagibees village near Sirsi.

According to the police, a private bus en route from Kumta to Sirsi collided head-on with a KSRTC bus coming from Bhatkal, which was bound for Bagalkot.

The severity of the crash jolted residents, prompting people to rush out of their homes in shock. "Both buses were speeding on this stretch, which was opened for traffic recently during the Sirsi Marikamba fair. The impact was so powerful that the front portions of both buses were badly damaged. Immediately, after the collision, there was a loud crash, followed by frantic wailing, screaming, and people calling for help. Locals rushed to the spot and provided whatever assistance they could. Since the accident took place near Sirsi, Sirsi Police reached the site quickly and arranged for ambulances," said Manjunath Naik, an eyewitness.

Multiple ambulances arrived in quick succession and rushed the injured to the hospital. Several passengers were reported to be in critical condition and are currently receiving treatment.

The accident also triggered major traffic disruption on the newly constructed road. Vehicles were brought to a standstill for hours, with queues stretching for several kilometres before the buses were finally moved aside along the roadside.

Geetha Patil, DySP Sirsi, told *TNIE* that the crash took place on a curve on the highway. "The buses were probably overspeeding, but the exact cause will be determined after the investigation. The traffic team has visited the spot. Two private passengers have been severely injured, while the rest are out of danger with minor injuries. A case will be registered and an investigation will be initiated," she said.

The two buses crashed on a curve on Kumta–Sirsi highway

EXPRESS READ

Seminar held on bank branch audit

BENGALURU: The Bengaluru branch of the Southern India Regional Council (SIRC) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Southern India Chartered Accountants Students' Association (SICASA-Bengaluru) organised a one-day seminar on bank branch audit on March 30. The event aimed to equip chartered accountancy students and aspiring professionals with the technical expertise required for the upcoming audit season. The seminar was inaugurated by chief guest Vidyalaxmi R, following which some technical sessions were conducted. Chartered Accountant Cotha S Srinivas gave a talk on 'Introduction to Bank Branch Audit & Role of Auditors', CA S Ananda Krishna delved into 'LFAR and Certificates for Special Purpose', CA Priyanka Jain explored 'Understanding NPA Classifications' and CA Venugopal Gella concluded with 'Usage of Technology in Bank Audit'.

Forest mobile squad nabs two poachers

MYSURU: In a significant development following the recent death of a tiger, forest officials have arrested two suspected poachers on the fringe of Nagarahole-Bandipur landscape. On March 27, a three-year-old male tiger died after being caught in an illegal snare set up for wild boar hunting in HD Kote taluk. The two accused, Suresh Kumar K H alias Girish (43) and Madhusudan M B alias Prajwal Gowda (29), were arrested with double barrel gun, who were operating in the area since April 1 allegedly to hunt wild boar and deer.

HC directs state to appoint petitioners as work inspectors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court directed the state government to appoint three appellants to the post of work inspector within two months. In the event of an amendment to the Karnataka Municipal Corporation (Common Recruitment of Officers and Employees) Rules, 2011, abolishing the cadre of work inspector, the government may merge the appellants' posts to an equivalent cadre, the court added.

A division bench of Justice DK Singh and Justice S Rachaiah passed the order recently, allowing the appeal filed by Harish Kumar HP from Ramanagara district and two other candidates questioning the single judge's order dated February 24, 2025.

At first, the appellants moved the High Court by filing a writ petition as the state declined to appoint them after their names were announced in the selection list in 2017 by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), saying the posts had been abolished. However, the single judge rejected their plea by way of the impugned order against which they filed the appeal.

"We are of the opinion that vide government order dated January 5, 2021, the cadre of work inspector under the 2011 Rules cannot be abolished unless there is a necessary amendment to that effect in the statutory rules. The said government order is a mere policy decision that must be given effect by amending the rules. Unless the rules are amended, the cadre of Work Inspectors continues to exist. Therefore, we reject the contention of the Additional Advocate General that the government is empowered to abolish the post/cadre by taking an executive decision and there is no requirement or necessity of amending the statutory rules to that effect", the division bench noted.

The petitioners have filed the petition seeking to quash the endorsement dated November 4, 2021, issued by the Director of the Department of Municipal Administration, rejecting their request to appoint them to the post of Work Inspector in pursuance of the selection held by the KPSC.

DOCUMENT LOST

I, **KANAKAMANI**, W/o M. Ponnuswamy, residing at No. 887, 10th Cross, 3rd Main, Gokula Extension, Yeshwanthapura, Bangalore – 560054, do hereby inform the general public that the Sale Agreement dated 21-06-1983, executed by the Secretary, Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) in favour of Sri. M. Ponnuswamy, documented as Document No. 1412, Page No. 131, pertaining to my property Site No. 887, Gokula 1st Stage, 2nd Phase, Bengaluru, has been lost/misplaced at Mathikere, Gokula Extension.Despite my best efforts, the same could not be traced. In this regard, I have lodged a complaint with Bengaluru City Police, vide Lost Report No. 2137420/2026 dated 03-04-2026.If anybody finds the above said document or is in possession of the same, please hand over to the above address or contact me at **9019997991.**

DOCUMENT LOST

I, **JAMPAIAH C,** residing at Peenya 1st Stage, Bangalore-560058 do hereby inform to the general public that in between 18/03/2026 and 28-03-2026, while I was travelling near Peenya 1st Stage, I have lost the document of Sale Deed pertaining to my property vide Doc. No. DSP-1-00860-2010-11. Inspite of my best efforts, the same could not be traced. In this regard on 28-03-2026, I had lodged online complaint at Bengaluru Police Unit, vide Lost Report No. 2129490/2026. If anybody finds the above said document or is in possession, please handover the same to the above said address or contact me on **9036521335.**

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
HARBOUR WORKS DIVISION No.I,
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
e-TCN No.CE/HWDI/ACCTS-02/25/94, dtd.25.03.2026

Name of the work: "Construction of Compound Wall along with development of surroundings of 3 Nos. Pump Houses(Ghanagalia, Dry Dock & North Oil Jetty) inside Harbour area". Put to tender value: Rs.1,41,87,582.76 plus GST as applicable. Last date & time of submission of tender through online bidding is 09.03.2026 up to 17:15 Hrs. For details, please log on to the Website: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Harbour Works Division-I,
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/02/2026-2027 dtd. 02.04.2026

WESTERN RAILWAY
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/17/2026 Date 01.04.2026

Sr. No.	Tender No	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
108	09255048A	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing for Modification of Fault Indication (Led Indication)	6 Nos	05-May-26
109	11255045	Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Drop Pit Table along with supply of Maintenance tools and concomitant accessories	4 Nos	04-May-26
110	15252290A	Lateral Damper	1101 Nos	04-May-26
111	03262890	4 mm Dia Manual Metal Arc Welding Electrode	1407408 Mtr	01-May-26
112	06261330	12 V, 7 Ah Sealed	8013 Nos	30-Apr-26

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** and **wr.indianrailways.gov.in** 1281
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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, my client **SRI. C.SRINIVAS, SMT. T.S. PUSHPA, SRI. GAURAV T.S** want to Purchase a property and the details of the property are mentioned below as in SCHEDULE PROPERTY from its Lawful Owners viz., **SRI. RAVINDRA REDDY, Son of Anjiana Reddy,** Aged about 49years, residing at #43, Old no. 192, 2nd main road, near pump house, Rukmininagar, Bengaluru - 560073. The said owners have informed my client the schedule property is free from all claims and encumbrances etc.,

Any person or persons, Banks, Financial institutions etc., having any valid right title, interest or any claim over the Schedule Property or any portions of it in any manner may with documentary evidence lodge their objections/claims with 7days from the date of this Public notice with the undersigned if no valid objection are received within the stipulated date, my client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property and the Schedule property is free from all claims and encumbrances.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of building Ground + 3 floors bearing No.43, formed in Converted Sy.No.34/1, 34/2, 35, 36 & 37, Assessment No.34/1, 34/2, 35, 36, 37, New E.P.I.D No.6644145114 and property No.421 /34/1,34/2/43 situated at 43, Raja Madhavaswamy Nilaya, 2nd Cross Rukmininagara, Nagasandra, Near Pump House, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, **measuring 17X30 / 5.18X9.14 mtrs (East to West X North to South) totally measuring 47.38/510 sq.mtrs,** and bounded on ; **EAST BY :** 30 ft Road, **WEST BY :** Remaining property belongs same property to K.R.Kumar, **NORTH BY :** Site No.42, **SOUTH BY :** 30 ft Road.

(SIDDARAMAIAH.H.S) - Advocate
#1, 2nd Cross, 9th D Main,Vijayanagar, BENGALURU-560 040
Mob: 9972193281

SALE NOTICE
UNDER INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE, 2016
SAALIM SHOES PVT. LTD.
(UNDER LIQUIDATION)
CIN : U19111TN2006PTC060267
Regd. Office: No.: 1-A, Regency Apartment, No.: 5, 1st Lane, Nungambakkam High Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034, Tamil Nadu, India.
Factory Premises : 'A' - UNIT No. 143/3, M.B.T. Road, Walajah Taluk, Ranipet - 632401. 'TANNERY' No. 63/1, 63/2, Ammoor Road, Manthangal Village, Walajah Taluk, Ranipet - 632404. 'G'-UNIT, No. 28/8B, Chinna Kukkundi, Kalavai Road, Arcot, Ranipet - 632503. (The CD is in the business of manufacturing the Leather & Footwear, The export of footwear, leather and leather products)

The properties of Corporate Debtor, M/s. Saalim Shoes Private Limited (Under Liquidation) are offered for Sale under Regulation 32 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016 as amended from time to time, by the appointed Liquidator of the Hon'ble NCLT, Chennai, "in parcels", under "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" condition. The Sale will be conducted through e-auction platform "https://baanknet.com", (with unlimited extension of 10 minutes each).

Inspection period : From 06.04.2026 To 30.04.2026 (Between 10 am & 4 pm)
DATE OF E-AUCTION : 05.05.2026 (TUESDAY)

SLOT TIMINGS	Asset Description	Manner of Sale	Reserve Price ₹	EMD Amount ₹	Incremental Bid Amt ₹
Slot No.: 1 11 AM to 1 PM	LAND & BUILDING	AS IS WHERE-IS BASIS	19.70 Cr.	2 Cr.	3 Lakhs
Slot No.: 2 2 PM to 4 PM	LAND & BUILDING	AS IS WHERE-IS BASIS	10.80 Cr.	1 Cr.	2 Lakhs
Slot No.: 3 4 PM to 6 PM	LAND & BUILDING	AS IS WHERE-IS BASIS	2.00 Cr.	20 Lakhs	1 Lakh

ASSET DETAILS: LAND AND BUILDING PERTAINING TO THE FOLLOWING AREAS:
Slot No.: 1 : 'A'-UNIT No. 143/3, M.B.T. Road, Walajah Taluk Ranipet - 632401. **Land - 2.52 Acres & Building - 74,482 Sq. ft (Approx.)**
Slot No.: 2 : 'TANNERY' No. 63/1, 63/2, Ammoor Road, Manthangal Village, Walajah Taluk, Ranipet - 632404. **Land - 6.28 Acres & Building - 96,805 Sq. ft (Approx.)**
Slot No.: 3 : 'G'-UNIT, No. 28/8B, Chinna Kukkundi, Kalavai Road, Arcot, Ranipet - 632503. **Land - 1.22 Acres & Building - 23,628 Sq. ft (Approx.)**

Terms and Conditions :
1.The e-auction will be conducted on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is basis" and "No recourse basis" only through e-auction.
2.The EMD amount shall be required to be deposited in the https://baanknet.com portal wallet.
3. The Bid shall be submitted through online mode only in the format prescribed.
4.The Last date of submission of EMD and filled in Tender Documents is **02.05.2026**.
5.For detailed terms and conditions of e-auction Sale, please refer the TENDER DOCUMENT/PROCESS MEMORANDUM available on https://baanknet.com or may be obtained from the Liquidator at saalim.liquidation@gmail.com for e-auction process contact : support.baanknet@psballiance.com // Helpline : 8291220220.
6.The Liquidator has the right to add, modify or cancel any terms and conditions in the TENDER DOCUMENT/PROCESS MEMORANDUM and to extend or shorten any time limit specified in the said document. He has the right to accept or reject any of the bids without giving any reason whatsoever.
7. The payments made after 30 days shall attract interest at the rate of 12% p.a. and the Sale shall be cancelled if the payment is not received within the period provided in the TENDER DOCUMENT/PROCESS MEMORANDUM.
8. The Land and Building under Sale will be handed over UNDER AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION ONLY.
9. Bidders may opt for bidding of all slots OR any one of them.
10. All the Factory premises at Ranipet can be inspected from 06.04.2026 to 30.04.2026 between 10 am and 4 pm on prior appointment and request by email to saalim.liquidation@gmail.com.

Dr. S.R. SHRIRAAM SHEKHER
Liquidator
SAALIM SHOES PVT. LTD. (Under Liquidation)
saalim.liquidation@gmail.com
IBBI/IPA-003/IP-N000144/2017-2018/11598
11, Prayag Apartments, 8-15, Gandhi Nagar First Main Road, Adyar, Chennai-600 020
Place : Chennai-20
Date : 01.04.2026

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SALES AND MARKETING NOTICE :For the 100 percent water soluble mixture of Fertilisers

In pursuance of the order no.S.O. 2900 (E) dated 24th October, 2015 and its amendment dated 30th December 2017, issued by Department of Agriculture Co-operation and Farmer Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Govt of India. M/s Shriram AgSmart Ltd, Registered office 2nd Floor, (West Wing), World Mark -1, Aerocity, New Delhi - 110037 India (Subsidiary of DCM Shriram Ltd) hereby notifies that it intends to sell 100 percent Water Soluble Mixture of Fertilisers Grades as per the specification given below.

Sl No.	Grades	'NPK 12-58-0	'NPK 6-0-49	'NPKSB 00: 14:14:11	'NPKS 15 -26-16-2	'NPK 13 -10-27	'NPK 13 -35-11	'NPKB: 08: 35:15:0.2	'NPKS13: 05:35	'NPK 11 -42-11
1	Moisture per cent by weight, Maximum	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
2	Total Nitrogen per cent by weight, Minimum	12.0	6.0	0	15	13	13	8	13	12
3	Water Soluble Phosphates (as P2O5) per cent by weight, Minimum	58.0	0.0	14	12	10	35	35	5	42
4	Water Soluble Potash (as K2O) per cent by weight, Minimum	0.0	49.0	14	16	27	11	15	35	13
5	Water Soluble Sulphur as Sulphate per cent by weight, Minimum			11	2					
6	Boron (as B) per cent by weight, Minimum							0.2		
7	Total Chloride per cent by Weight, Maximum	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
8	Matter Insoluble in water per cent by weight, Maximum	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
9	Sodium (as NaCl) per cent by weight, Maximum	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
10	Lead (as Pb) per cent by weight, Maximum	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003
11	Cadmium (as Cd) per cent by weight, Maximum	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
12	Arsenic (as As) per cent by weight, Maximum	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01

To know more about doses, method of appication and benefits, please contact below given office
Marketing Office Address & Contact Details: Shriram AgSmart Ltd
Plot no.82, Institutional Area, Sector 32, Gurugram - 122003, Haryana (India), CIN No.U24232DL2022PLC401518, Customer Care No. 0120 - 4040188, Email : info@shriramagsmart.com, website : www.dcmshriram.com

In response to the Centre's directives, the Karnataka government has cancelled two laterite mining leases in Belagavi. The Union Ministry of Mines had stated in its recent letter that laterite deposits containing more than 20 per cent alumina must be classified as major minerals rather than minor minerals while granting mining leases

More than 3,700 prisoners in K'taka await trial for 1-5 years

Uttar Pradesh records highest numbers, followed by Maha, West Bengal

MARX TEJASWI @ Shivamogga

THOUSANDS of undertrial prisoners in Karnataka continue to remain behind bars for extended periods, with fresh data tabled in Parliament highlighting the scale of delays in the justice system.

Replying to an unstarred question from MP and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal said that as of December 31, 2023, Karnataka had 1,834 undertrials lodged in jails for one to two years, 1,674 for two to five years, and 226 prisoners who have spent more than five years awaiting trial. Across India, 54,655 undertrials have been in jail for one to two years, 54,607 for two to five years and 10,392 for more than five years. Uttar Pradesh reported the highest numbers, followed by Maharashtra and West Bengal, indicating persistent pendency in courts and delays in securing bail.

The Centre clarified that "prisons and prisoners" fall under the state list, making state governments primarily responsible for prison administration. However, it said the Union government has introduced measures to ease overcrowding and prolonged detention. One such initiative is the "Support to Poor Prisoners" scheme, which provides financial assistance of up to Rs 1 lakh for bail. The scheme has been allocated Rs 20 crore annually between 2023-24 and 2025-26.

In addition, Undertrial Review Committees, set up across districts under the National Legal Services Authority, have recommended the release of over 1.67 lakh prisoners in the last three years. Of these, more than 82,000 inmates were released following such recommendations. The government also pointed to provisions under Section 479 of the BNSS, which mandates bail for undertrials who have served half of the maximum sentence for their alleged offence. First-time offenders may be released after serving one-third of the maximum sentence. However, the Centre admitted that there is no centralised data on pendency or average disposal time of bail applications through the National Judicial Data Grid.

Hindu activists gather in front of a police station in Hubballi | D HEMANTH

Girl, mother allege 'love jihad', spark tension in Hubballi

MALLIKARJUN HIREMATH @ Hubballi

HUBBALLI witnessed tension on Friday after an alleged 'love jihad' and harassment case triggered protests by Hindu activists. Members of Hindu organisations picketed the house of Sameer Mullah, alleging that he had sent a threatening message to a girl from the Hindu community. The protesters later handed him over to the Old Hubballi police station.

The situation escalated after the girl's family alleged that Sameer's relatives entered their house and issued death threats. This development added a new dimension to the case, with allegations emerging that Sameer had blackmailed the girl and possibly other women. Rajeshwari, the girl's mother, said her daughter and Sameer's sister were friends, through whom Sameer came into contact with her. "We never expected such behaviour," she said, demanding strict action and justice.

The girl alleged that Sameer, who runs a gym called Muscle Factory in the city, gained her trust and later called her to his house under the pretext of meeting him. She claimed that after consuming water offered by him, she felt dizzy and lost consciousness. She further alleged that he later showed her a video and threatened her, leading to repeated abuse.

"I was scared and followed his commands. Now, his family members are threatening to kill me and my family. I am worried that other innocent girls may also be targeted," she claimed.

Meanwhile, Sameer's sister refuted the allegations, saying that the two had been in a relationship for four years. She alleged that the girl had been pressured by the activists to change her stance. "The allegations are false," she said.

Hindu activists claimed this was not an isolated incident and alleged a pattern of Hindu girls being targeted. They also cited a message purportedly sent by Sameer as evidence of his intent.

Police Commissioner N. Shashi Kumar said he visited the spot and spoke to both families. "Statements will be recorded and action will be taken based on the complaints. The truth will emerge after a thorough probe," he said. Police sources said that material, including photographs with different women and medical-related documents (pregnancy reports), had been recovered from Sameer's mobile phone.

EXPRESS READ

Nine held for assault, tearing woman's clothes over road dispute

HASSAN: The Halebid police have arrested nine people for allegedly assaulting a woman and tearing her clothes during a dispute over road formation between two families in Hanchihalli village on March 22. According to the police, the accused picked up a quarrel with the family of Shivakumar and assaulted his wife after dragging her out of the house. The incident, which stemmed from a long-standing dispute over land access for road construction, went viral on social media. The arrested accused have been identified as Gangabovi, Shivakumar, Soma, Kiran, Anand, Punith, Pratap, Nagabovi, and Manjabovi Prasanna. The complaint was filed by Govindappa, a relative of the victim. A source said the Kumar and Shivakumar families frequently clashed over the issue.

Vegetables are cheaper in Kolar

KOLAR: With crop from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu as well as from districts within the state such as Chitradurga, Mandya, Chikmangalore and Bengaluru District flooding the market, vegetables have become a cheaper buy for consumers. According to Kiran, Secretary, APMC Market, Kolar, tomatoes were being sold at Rs 50 to Rs 220 for 15 kg (a crate). Among other vegetables, capsicum went for Rs.15 to 50 per kg and cauliflower at Rs 10 to 15 per kg. Usually tomatoes come from other states starting from January till May.According to CMR Srinath, a farmer and merchant, said only 5 to 8% of tomato crop is coming from Kolar district. Most of the hotels have cut down their menu due to LPG supply disruption, reducing demand for vegetables, added Srinath.

5 teams, dog squad search for missing techie

Tadiandamol, the highest peak of Kodagu district, where the woman techie went missing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE search operation resumed early on Friday morning with five teams -- three from the forest department and two with the police and local residents. Madikeri DCF Abhishek confirmed that drones and dog squad are being used to track her. "We are searching at all possible locations. The trek path of Tadiandamol is not tough and trekkers can easily find their way back in two to three hours," he opined. The police, meanwhile, are looking at all possible angles and investigating the matter.

SP Bindu Mani RN confirmed that the family of the missing woman has been informed. Napoklu police confirmed that Sharanya works as a techie in Kochi and her brother has arrived in Kodagu after she was reported missing.

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

BACK OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, LIC JEEVAN MANGAL , HAYES ROAD, RESIDENCY RD, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA 560025

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), under Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued Demand Notice to following Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices. However, The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** in exercise of powers conferred U/s 13(4) and U/s 14 of the said Act read with the Rule 8.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property have been mortgaged to the LIC HFL, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of LIC HFL will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & without any recourse basis on Date of auction, as per the brief particulars given here under.

Name of Borrower/s - MR. SANTOSH ARVIND KAGAWAD
Loan No – 412000001043 and 412000001108

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the land bearing old Sy No. 80, New Sy No. 80(P) measuring to an extent of 3 acre ¼ Guntas duly converted for residential purpose as per the order of the Special deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore vide order no. BDS/ALN/(S) SR (KT) 171/2003-04 dated 12.04.2004, Situated at Kengeri Village, KengeriHobli, Bangalore south Taluk Bangalore, Now with in the administrative limits of Bruhath Bangaluru Mahanagara Palike and Registered the khatha vide No. 4260/431/80 and bounded on: East by : Road heading from Kengeri to Hemmigepura& property purchased by Smt.Geetha West by : Vrushabhavathi River North by : Pathway heading from Kengeri towards Temple, South by : Private property/Khadirappas land.
SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY : 520 SFT of undivided right, title and interest in the schedule 'A' Property and
SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the residential apartment bearing No. C-203, situated in the First (1) floor of block C of the multi storied residential building known and called as "RAMANUJA ENCLAVE" with super built up area of 1220 sqft consisting of 2 bed rooms, hall kitchen etc, constructed over the schedule A Property along with covered car parking area bearing No. C-203 in the basement of c block of the schedule A property. The building is constructed with RCC roofing jungle wood, vitrified tiles flooring provided with all basic amenities.

Date of Demand Notice	01/09/2025
Amount Demanded	Rs.84,80,236.00(Rs. 24,98,032.00 + Rs. 59,82,204.00) with further Interest, Cost and Expenses.
Date of Possession	Symbolic Possession on 29/12/2025
Virtual Account Details	Beneficiary Name: LIC Housing Finance Ltd Account No: LHFLBA412000001043, IFSC CODE: HDFC0000009
Reserve Price	Rs.40,00,000.00/- (RUPEES FOURTY LAKHS ONLY)
EMD	Rs.4,00,000.00 /- (RUPEES FOUR LAKH ONLY)
Total Amount payable as on date	Rs. 90,65,972.64 /- (RUPEES NINETY LAKHS SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-TWO RUPEES AND SIXTY-FOUR PAISA ONLY)
Website of E-Auction	https://online.lichousing.com/eauction/ & https://www.auctionbazaar.com/
Date & time of Inspection of Photocopies of property documents	4 MAY 2026 & 10:30AM to 3:00PM
Address where property documents can be inspected	BACK OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, LIC JEEVAN MANGAL, HAYES ROAD, RESIDENCY RD, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA 560025
Inspection of the Property Date for inspection and time	5 MAY 2026 & 10:30AM to 1:00PM
Contact person	Mr. A.S.R PHANINDRA, Associate Chief Manager, Mob No: 8008177199
Last date of submission of Online Tender / Bid	6 MAY 2026 till 3PM
E Auction Date & Time	7 MAY 2026 & 11 AM to 3PM

Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets / properties (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI, Act 2002 and rules thereunder) LICHFL invites OFFERS through online mode only to purchase the said property as per the following Terms and Conditions as mentioned below:

1. E-Auction Sale is being held on **'As is where is Basis is' and 'As is what is Basis', 'whatever there is Basis' And 'Without Any Recourse Basis', and will be conducted "Online".** The E-Auction will be conducted through LIC HFL approved E-auction service provider – **https://www.auctionbazaar.com/ 2.** To the best of the knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, no other encumbrance exists on the mortgaged property, except as disclosed in the publications. However, the interested Bidders to conduct their own independent due diligence verifications regarding the Location and Identity of the property, Inspection of Public records in the Sub Registrars' Offices/Civil Courts, to find any encumbrances, statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, Income Tax, Excise Duty, Labor Dues, electricity, and maintenance dues, etc., of the Secured Asset. The Successful bidders shall have to bear all outgoing i.e., municipal taxes, maintenance/society charges, electricity charges, water charges, stamp duty, registration charges, (if applicable), if any and all other incidentals charges, cost including all outgoing relating to the respective properties over and above the Reserve Price. LICHFL will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, liabilities, etc., of whatsoever nature pending upon the properties as mentioned above. **3.** The intending bidders should register their names at portal "website of E-auction service provider" as mentioned in the auction sale notice (as published in newspaper advertisement). **4.** The E-auction Sale is subject to the conditions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act/Rules 2002 and the terms and conditions mentioned hereunder/ website also subject to conditions in the offer/bid documents to be submitted by the intending/participating bidders. **5.** Every bidder is required to have his/her own email address in order to participate in the online E-auction. Once Intending Bidder formally registers as a qualified tenderer before Authorized Officer of LICHFL, will have to express his/her interest to participate through the E-auction bidding platform, by submitting documents. It shall be the tenderer's/online bidder's sole responsibility to procure his/her login ID and password from the E-auction service provider. **6.** The aforesaid properties shall not be sold below the Reserve Price mentioned above. **7.** If the successful bidder defaults in effecting payments or fails to adhere to the terms and condition of E-Auction in any manner the amount already deposited will be forfeited and he/she shall not have any claim as such for forfeited amount. **8.** The offer/s along with the aforesaid Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) can be submitted **"online"** through the portal eg., **"www.auctionbazaar.com"** along with the EMD and scanned copy of KYC documents including PAN Card & (Aadhar Card) address proof, to the service provider, mentioned above on or before the Bid Submission due date & time as per other details of Auction above. Authorised Officer is not bound to accept highest offer made by the bidder if not acceptable to the secured creditor. **9.** Every Bidder shall deposit EMD before participating in E-Auction. The said Deposit/s shall be adjusted in the case of successful bidder/s, otherwise refunded. The said earnest money deposit/s will not carry any interest. **10.** Initial Bidding increment is **Rs 25000/-.** However, Authorised Officer will state bidding increment amount percentage for each property if, decided otherwise. **11.** The successful bidder/s shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the EMD paid already, within 24 hours of bid acceptance by the Authorized officer/next working day before close of cash hours, in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposited shall be forfeited. The balance 75% of the sale price is payable within 15 days from the date of confirmation of the sale unless decided otherwise by Authorised Officer in writing, the maximum period allowed is 90 days, beyond which time-period cannot be extended. In case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited. The Authorized Officer shall not be required to give any further notice of forfeiture to the successful bidder. **12.** The successful bidder should bear the charges/fees payable on sale certificate, such as registration fees, stamp duty, taxes, or any other duties payable for getting the secured asset transferred in his/her name. **13.** The Sale Certificate will be issued only in the name of the successful bidder and only after receipt of the entire sale price. **14.** The notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, Mortgagor/s and Guarantor/s that they can bring the intending buyer/purchaser for purchasing the properties mentioned above, as per the terms and Conditions of the E-Auction Sale. **15.** Inspection of the photocopies of documents and Property Inspection of the above said properties can be done on the dates stated in the advertisement. Interested bidders shall contact the designated official as per the other details of E-Auction mentioned above. All conveyance and other expenses related to Inspection of the property/document copies shall be borne by the interested bidders.**16.** The LIC Housing Finance Limited reserves the right to CANCEL / ACCEPT / REJECT / ALTER / MODIFY / POSTPONE the AUCTION without giving any reason whatsoever or prior Notice. **17.** The sale is subject to confirmation by the Secured Creditor, viz., LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 04.04.2026

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
L.I.C Housing Finance Ltd, Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client proposes to purchase the land at **Ramapalya Village, Dasanapura 1 Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore.** The particulars of the property, including Owner's name, Survey Numbers, extent of land, and boundaries are set out hereunder:

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Extent A	Extent G	TITLE HOLDER	Boundaries East	West	North	South
1	8	1	11	Gangadoddaiya S/o Nanjimaraiah	Sy.No.7	Sy.Nos. 11 & 10	Sy.Nos.9/1 & 9/2	Bettanagere
2.	12	0	39	Gowramma W/o late.Chikkanna	Sy.No.15/4	Nala & Bettanagere Sy.No.76/7	Sy.Nos.13/2,13/3, 13/1, 14/1, 14/2, 14/5,15/2B, 15/1A5 & 15/3	Nala
3.	13/1	0	17	Ashwathaiah S/o Papaiah	Sy.No.14/1	Sy.No.13/3	Village Boundary	Sy.No.12
4.	13/2	0	25	Rathna.D W/o Dhananjaya	Sy.No.13/3	Village Boundary	Road	Nala & Sy.No.12
5.	14/1	0	20	Dhananjaya.L. S/o late Laksmhinarasimhaiah	Sy.No.14/2	Sy.No.13/1	Village Boundary	Sy.No.12
6.	14/2	0	8	K.M.Ramaswamy S/o Munichannappa	Sy.Nos. 14/3 & 14/5	Sy.No.14/1	Village Boundary	Sy.No.12
7.	14/3	0	10	Rathna.D W/o Dhananjaya	Sy.No.14/4	Sy.No.14/2	Village Boundary	Sy.No.14/5
8.	14/4	0	17	Rathna.D W/o Dhananjaya	Sy.Nos. 15/2A & 15/2B	Sy.Nos. 14/3 & 14/5	Village Boundary	Sy.No.12
9.	14/5	0	3	Puttagangamma W/o Late.Doddegowda	Sy.No.14/4	Sy.No.14/2	Sy.No.14/3	Sy.No.12
10.	15/1A1	0	5	S.Nagarathna W/o late Siddabeeraiah and her children	Sy.No.15/3	Sy.No. 15/1B	Village Boundary	Sy.No. 15/1A2
11.	15/1A2	0	3.12	Munikrishna S/o Beeraiah	Sy.No.15/3	Sy.No. 15/1B	Sy.No.15/1A1	Sy.No.15/1A3
12.	15/1A3	0	3.12	Chikkanna S/o Papaiah	Sy.No.15/3	Sy.No. 15/1B	Sy.No.15/1A2	Sy.No.15/1A4
13.	15/1A4	0	3.12	Muniyappa S/o Channappa	Sy.No.15/3	Sy.No. 15/1B	Sy.No.15/1A3	Sy.No.15/1A5
14.	15/1A5	0	3.12	Dhananjaya.L. S/o late. Laksmhinarasimhaiah	Sy.No.15/3	Sy.No. 15/1B	Sy.No.15/1A4	Sy.No.12
15.	15/1B	0	15	Dhananjaya.L. S/o late. Laksmhinarasimhaiah	Sy.Nos. 15/1A1, 15/1A2, 15/1A3, 15/1A4 & 15/1A5	Sy.Nos. 15/2A & 15/2B	Village Boundary	Sy.No.12
16.	15/2A	0	3	Rathna.D W/o Dhananjaya	Sy.No.15/1B	Sy.No.14/4	Village Boundary	Sy.No. 15/2B
17.	15/2B	0	2	Dhananjaya.L. S/o late. Laksmhinarasimhaiah	Sy.No.15/1B	Sy.No.14/4	Sy.No.15/2A	Sy.No.12
18.	15/3	0	18	K.M.Ramaswamy S/o Munichannappa	Sy.No.15/4	Sy.Nos. 15/1A1, 15/1A2, 15/1A3, 15/1A4 & 15/1A5	Village Boundary	Sy.No.12
19.	15/4	0	20	Rathna.D W/o Dhananjaya	Sy.Nos. 16/1, 16/3 & 16/4	Sy.No.15/4	Village Boundary	Nala
20.	16/1	0	15	K.M.Ramaswamy S/o Munichannappa	Sy.No.16/2	Sy.No.17/1	Village Boundary	Sy.No.16/3
21.	16/2	0	18	Rathna.D W/o Dhananjaya	Sy.No.17/1	Sy.Nos.16/1, 16/3 & 16/4	Village Boundary	Nala
22.	16/3	0	10.1	Gangaiah S/o Beeraiah	Sy.No.16/2	Sy.No.15/4	Sy.No.16/1	Sy.No.16/4
23.	16/4	0	11.1	Gangadoddaiah S/o Beeraiah	Sy.No.16/2	Sy.No.15/4	Sy.No.16/3	Nala
24.	17/1	0	36	K.M.Ramaswamy S/o Munichannappa	Sy.No.17/2	Sy.No.16/2	Village Boundary	Nala
25.	17/2	0	13	M.Nagesh S/o Munichannappa	Sy.No.17/3	Sy.No.17/1	Village Boundary	Nala
26.	17/3	0	15	Rathna.D W/o Dhananjaya	Sy.No.18	Sy.No.17/2	Village Boundary	Nala

Any person or persons having any claim, lien, charges, or any rights for the above sale transaction may lodge their claims/objections with documentary evidence within **fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, thereafter my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction. Any claims received beyond stipulated period will not be entertained.

Mr.T.S.CHANDAN
Advocate & Legal Consultant
No.2, Bindu Galaxy, West of Cord Road, Industrial Town, Rajajinagar
BANGALORE – 560 010 Ph.No.8050221399

DATED : 04.04.2026
Place : Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Madan Kumar S/o A Ranganath,** Aged about 41 years, residing at Flat no. 306, 562/2, SMC Beverly villas, 1st cross, 1st main, Hig Colony, RMV 2nd stage, Dollars colony, Near to pebble bay Apartment, Bangalore North, RMV Extension II stage, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560094. I submit that, Kasinathan was my adopted father, where as my biological father's name is A. Ranganath, and I intend to reflect the same in my name for all legal, personal and official purposes.

I formally submit and retreat the change of my father's name from Madan Kumar S/o Kasinathan to Madan Kumar S/o. A Ranganath for all legal purposes and records. I further submit that: I seek to have my father's name from Kasinathan to A Ranganath, reflected in all future legal records. Vide affidavit dated **26.03.2026** sworn before **L.B. Anasuyamma, Advocate** & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client SESHAASAI TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED, desirous of purchasing the Schedule Property from its owner SRI. CHIKKAMUNIYAPPA, S/o. Late. Sri. Puttappa, residing at No.2/3/1, Near Aralimar, Sugama Layout, Nyanappanahalli, Arekere, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore South - 560076.

Any person or persons asserting any rights, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner against the said owner or objecting such sale should write to the under signed within **SEVEN DAYS** of issuance of this Public Notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights in respect of the Schedule Property, after which period my client shall proceed with the sale transaction on the basis that there are no claims whatsoever in nature on the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the industrial Plot No.444, property No.95/444, E-Khatha No. 150300701300820102 issued by Manne Grama Panchayath, situated in a layout formed by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board at Sompura 2nd Stage Industrial Area comprised in Sy.No.Parts of 16/2, 16/12 & 26 within the village limits of Lakshmanapura, Hobli Thyamagondlu, Taluk Nelamangala, District Bengaluru Rural, in all measuring 4147.00 sq mtrs (as per sale deed sketch East to West 71.8+70.15/2 sq mtrs and North to South 62.4+54.85/2 sq mtrs) with an industrial shed measuring 929 sq mtrs with cement flooring, steel windows and shutters. The shed is provided with water, electricity and sanitary connection and bounded on the:-

East by	Plot No.443
West by	Plot No.445
North by	25M wide KIADB Road No.20
South by	Plot No.450 & Plot No.451.

C.P. Sajeev & Jaisri.S.Krishnan,
Advocates,
No.34 & 35, 1st Floor, 8th Main, 13th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-03.
Ph.Nos. 98452 00930 and 98807 48335
E-mail: Krishnan.jaisri@gmail.com

The Railway Board notification revising the jurisdiction of South Coast Railway (SCoR) zone incorporating the Palasa-Ichchapuram rail section from Khurda Road division of the East Coast Railway (ECoR) has sparked a huge backlash in Odisha

₹8,000-worth coupon can be used to purchase home appliances, says Telangana CM; Pinarayi Vijayan invites Revanth Reddy to learn Kerala's welfare model

Stalin tears into EPS for MK 'house arrest' allegation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Tirunelveli

TAMIL Nadu Chief Minister **MK Stalin** in Tirunelveli on Friday said, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami crossed his limits in his speech out of fear of defeat, while commenting on the latter's claim that Stalin had kept his father K Karunanidhi under house arrest in his final days.

Campaigning for the candidates of the Secular Progressive Alliance, Stalin said that Palaniswami is not even qualified to utter Karunanidhi's name. "As Leader of Opposition, Palaniswami can criticise the government. However, during his campaign, he alleged that I kept my father under house arrest. Karunanidhi was a lion. Even when he was taking rest in his final days, he wanted to go to Arivalayam. When doctors asked, he said he liked CN Annadurai dispute loss of memory. No one can put him in jail," Stalin said.

The Chief Minister further said that in the NDA, Palaniswami had been given a role to seek votes for the BJP, which is against minorities and the Tamil language. "The BJP has not released the State's educational fund, denied GST compensation, NEET exemption, and railway and metro schemes. The Central party is using Palaniswami to establish its footprint in Tamil Nadu," he added.

Talking about the DMK's promises, Stalin said that using the Rs 8,000-worth coupon, women could purchase new home appliances or exchange the existing ones any brand. "If the DMK is voted to power, a special scheme for the southern districts will be implemented to improve health and education indicators and set up more industries," he promised.

PINARAYI VIJAYAN SLAMS REVANTH AFTER CRITICISM DURING CAMPAIGN

T'PURAM: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday hit back at his Telangana counterpart Revanth Reddy after the latter's sharp criticism of the Left government during a campaign visit to the state. In a Facebook post, Vijayan said 'Reddy was "misinformed," and accused him of "ridiculing" Kerala and its people while concealing the weaknesses of his own state. "By conveniently ignoring the bulldozing of the homes of the poor in his own state, he appears ready to lecture Kerala on social progress and public welfare -- clearly, he has been seriously misinformed by someone," Vijayan wrote. Inviting Reddy to the state to learn about its welfare model, Vijayan said Kerala was moving forward through "sustainable and inclusive development". He also accused Reddy of backing those trying to undermine it. Responding to allegations of corruption and administrative failure, Vijayan said, "He claims that Kerala is marked by 'corruption and administrative failure', but he should be willing to look at official data. Is he unaware that Kerala is among the least corrupt states in the country?" **ENS**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi campaigns in Puducherry ahead of the Assembly elections on Friday | PTI

Modi seeks support for NDA in Puducherry, holds public rally

AGENCIES @Puducherry

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi held a grand roadshow here on Friday and sought support for the AINRC-BJP alliance in the April 9 election to the territorial Assembly.

The roadshow was flanked by AINRC founder leader Chief Minister N Rangasamy and BJP leader, Home Minister A Namassivayam, for less than 2 km which took nearly an hour to conclude. Earlier, on his arrival, he was accorded a rousing welcome by the BJP workers amid chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Jai Shri Ram'. As the prime minister's open campaign vehicle slowly moved on, he waved at the people, and they showered flowers on him and his campaign vehicle. Flags of the BJP-AINR Congress fluttered all across the city, and it was maximum from the SV Patel Road, the starting point of the roadshow and till the Anna Salai--Kamarajar Salai junction where the event culminated.

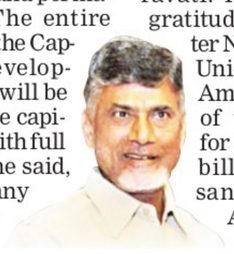
Police had made elaborate security arrangements in view of the prime minister's visit. A large number of supporters had gathered well in advance to welcome Modi. NDA constituents, AIADMK and Latchiya Jananayaga Katchi, founded by Jose Charles Martin, were allotted 2 seats each.

Amaravati's progress unstoppable: Naidu

Y BRAHMAJI @ Vijayawada

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu** has termed the granting of legal status to Capital Amaravati a historic victory of the people, asserting that it reflects the collective will of both the State and the Centre. He further said the passage of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in both Houses of Parliament marks a decisive moment in Andhra Pradesh's post-bifurcation journey and brings clarity to the long-pending capital issue.

"Capital construction is a long-term process. The development of Amaravati will continue in a phased and sustainable manner. Amaravati will emerge as an unstoppable and permanent capital. The entire area notified by the Capital Region Development Authority will be recognised as the capital region now with full legal sanctity," he said, cautioning that any attempts to hinder the progress of Amaravati will not succeed. Addressing the media at Undavalli, Naidu said the AP Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill received widespread support in Parliament with nearly 35 MPs speaking in favour of Amaravati. He expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on behalf of the people of AP for the passage of the bill providing legal sanctity to Capital Amaravati.



"With legal sanctity, Amaravati development will move forward with renewed momentum, paving the way for a stronger and more prosperous Andhra Pradesh," he asserted. Emphasising the emotional and cultural significance of Amaravati, he said the capital was symbolically sanctified with soil and water collected from temples and sacred places across the country. He also recalled that the Prime Minister contributed soil from Parliament during the foundation laying ceremony of Capital Amaravati.

Ramu Patil of TNIE to get first Bhimanna Khandre award

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bidar

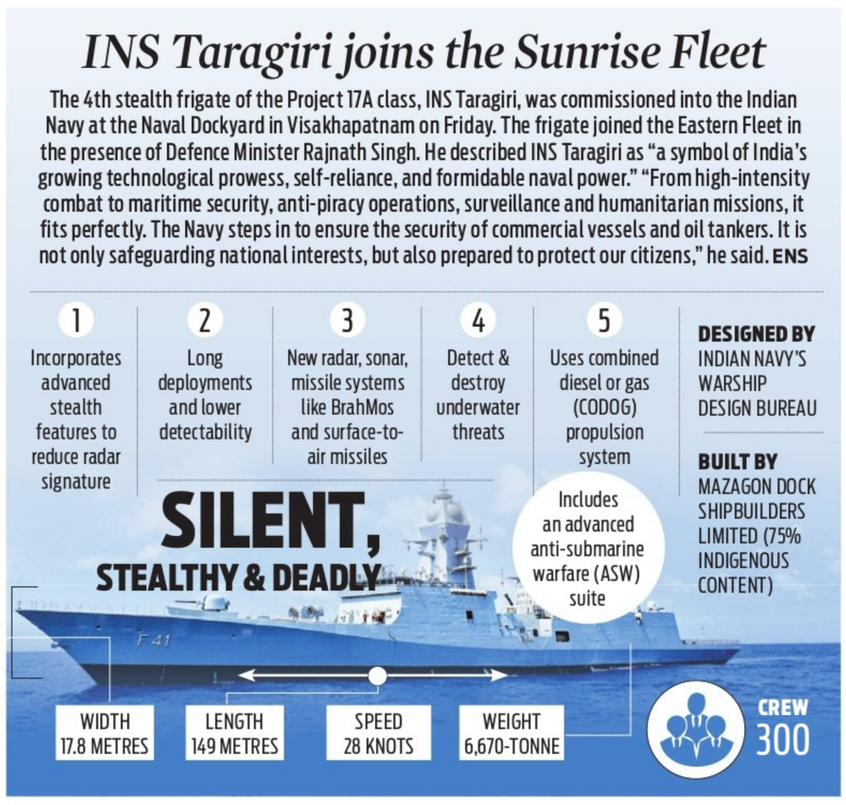
The Karnataka Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) has selected Ramu Patil, Assistant Resident Editor of The New Indian Express, for an award instituted in the name of former minister Bhimanna Khandre.

The award will be presented at the 40th Annual State-Level Journalists' Conference, scheduled to be held in Bidar on April 11 and 12. In a statement, KUWJ State president Shivanand Tagaduru and secretary Lokesh said Patil, who hails from Kalaburagi district, has been chosen for his contribution to journalism. The award has been instituted this year by Forest Eshwar Khandre in memory of his father Bhimanna Khandre, and Patil will be the first recipient.

EXPRESS READ

Apex court junks FEMA confiscation of firm linked to DMK MP

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has set aside the confiscation of properties belonging to Accord Distilleries & Breweries Private Limited and its directors including DMK's five-time MP, S Jagathrakshakan, his son J Sundeep Anand and his daughter, after noting that the proceedings under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) had been vitiated, rendering the action "arbitrary and contrary to law." Giving relief to Jagathrakshakan, the court observed that the confiscation order was legally unsustainable as the adjudicating authority proceeded on a fundamentally flawed premise, ignoring prior findings that went to the root of the case. The bench said, "We are of the opinion that the impugned order dated 23rd July, 2024 passed by the Division Bench of the High Court and so also the order of the Single Judge of the High Court dated 30th November, 2023, rejecting the writ petition preferred by the appellants and as a consequence, the final order dated 26th August, 2024 passed by the adjudicating authority imposing penalty and ordering confiscation of the property held by appellants are declared to be arbitrary and contrary to law." **ENS**


INS Taragiri joins the Sunrise Fleet
The 4th stealth frigate of the Project 17A class, INS Taragiri, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam on Friday. The frigate joined the Eastern Fleet in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. He described INS Taragiri as "a symbol of India's growing technological prowess, self-reliance, and formidable naval power." "From high-intensity combat to maritime security, anti-piracy operations, surveillance and humanitarian missions, it fits perfectly. The Navy steps in to ensure the security of commercial vessels and oil tankers. It is not only safeguarding national interests, but also prepared to protect our citizens," he said. ENS
1 Incorporates advanced stealth features to reduce radar signature
2 Long deployments and lower detectability
3 New radar, sonar, missile systems like BrahMos and surface-to-air missiles
4 Detect & destroy underwater threats
5 Uses combined diesel or gas (CODOG) propulsion system
DESIGNED BY INDIAN NAVY'S WARSHIP DESIGN BUREAU
BUILT BY MAZAGON DOCK SHIPBUILDERS LIMITED (75% INDIGENOUS CONTENT)
SILENT, STEALTHY & DEADLY
Includes an advanced anti-submarine warfare (ASW) suite
WIDTH 17.8 METRES
LENGTH 149 METRES
SPEED 28 KNOTS
WEIGHT 6,670-TONNE
CREW 300

TG HC allows private colleges to collect fees from students

TG NAIDU @ Hyderabad

THE Telangana High Court has granted interim relief to the petitioner educational institutions by permitting them to collect tuition fees directly from students belonging to SC/ST/EBC/BC/MW and other eligible categories, pending disposal of a batch of writ petitions.

Justice Juvvadi Sridevi passed the order while hearing multiple petitions filed by the institutions challenging GOs that bar direct fee collection under the fee reimbursement scheme. The matter has been adjourned to April 30, 2026. The petitioners contended that despite being prohibited from collecting fees from eligible students, the state government has failed to reimburse tuition and special fees for several years, leaving substantial dues unpaid. They submitted that even amounts for which tokens were generated have not been released, affecting institutional finances and routine operations, including payment of staff salaries.

Appearing for the state, the Special Government Pleader acknowledged that payments are due and sought time to file counter affidavits. The court noted that despite repeated adjournments, no counter affidavits had been filed and there was no clarity on when the dues would be cleared. Taking note of the continued delay and its impact on institutions, the court formed a prima facie view that significant amounts remain unpaid.

As an interim measure, the court permitted institutions to collect tuition fees directly from eligible students without reference to the impugned GOs, pending final adjudication of the writ petitions. However, it clarified that the arrangement is subject to the outcome of the cases, and any collections made would be governed by the final decision.

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

LIC HFL LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD

BACK OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, LIC JEEVAN MANGAL , HAYES ROAD, RESIDENCY RD, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA 560025

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), under Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued Demand Notice to following Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices. However, The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken **Physical Possession (S)** in exercise of powers conferred U/s 13(4) and U/s 14 of the said Act read with the Rule 8.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property have been mortgaged to the LIC HFL, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of LIC HFL will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & without any recourse basis on Date of auction, as per the brief particulars given here under.

Name of Borrower/s- MR. KATROTH GOUTHAM RAJ

LOAN NO. 411900015454

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : ITEM NO.1 : All that piece and parcel of site bearing No.73, BBMP Khata No.198/73, measuring East to West 80 feet and North to South 50 feet in all measuring 4,000 Sq.ft, site No.74, BBMP Khata No.199/74, measuring East to West 80 feet and North to South 50 feet in all measuring 4,000 Sq.feet and Site No.75 BBMP Khata No.200/75, measuring East to West 80 feet and North to South 50 feet in all measuring 4,000 Sq.feet, in all measuring 12,000 Sq.feet carved out of converted Sy.No.84/3,84/4,84/5,86/1,86/3 and 83/8, converted from agricultural to Non-agricultural residential use vide Official memorandum bearing No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)85/2000-01 dated 22.09.2000, and Official Memorandum bearing No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)86/2000-01 DATED 23.09.2000,issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Situated at Kembathahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on the; East by : Road, West by : Site bearing Nos.76,77 and 79; North by : Road; South by : Site bearing No.72.

ITEM NO.2 : All that piece and parcel of site bearing No.72, BBMP Khata No.197/72, measuring East to West 80 feet and North to South(23+31)/2 feet in all measuring 2160 Sq.ftt, carved out of converted Sy.No. 80,84/3,84/4 & 84/5, converted from agricultural to Non-agricultural residential use vide Official memorandum bearing No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)89/2000-01 dated 04.10.2000, Official Memorandum bearing No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)85/2000-01 DATED 22.09.2000 and Official Memorandum bearing No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S) 86/2000-01 dated 23.09.2000 issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Situated at Kembathahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on the; East by : Road, West by : Site bearing No. 79; North by : Site bearing No. 73; South by : Private Property.

COMPOSITE SCHEDULE A PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of site bearing Nos.72, 73, 74 and 75, presently bearing Brahut Bangalore Mahanagara Palike amalgamated Khata No.197/72/Sy.No.84/5, in all measuring 14,160 Sq.feet carved out of converted Sy.No.80, 84/3, 84/4, 84/5, 86/1, 86/3 and 83/8, converted from agricultural to Non-agricultural residential use vide Official Memorandum bearing No. B. DIS./ALN.SR(S)89/2000-01, dated 04.10.2000, Official Memorandum bearing No.B.DIS./ALN.SR(S)85/2000-01, dated 22.09.2000, and Official Memorandum bearing No.B.DIS./ALN.SR(S)86/2000-01, dated 23.09.2000, ISSUED BY THE Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Situated at Kembathahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on the : East by : Road, West by : Site bearing Nos.76, 77, 78 and 79, North by : Road, South by : Private property.

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY : 505 Sq.feet undivided interest in the immovable property mentioned in composite Schedule "A' property above, (i.e., proportionate to built- uparea).

SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY : Residential Apartment/Flat bearing No.201 in Second Floor, measuring 1390 Sq.ft. of Super built up Area, containing Three Bedrooms, with RCC Roofing and Vitrified Flooring together with One Covered Car Parking Space including proportionate share in common areas such as Passages, amenities, Lobbies, Staircase and Lifts to be constructed on composite Schedule "A' property in the Multi-storied residential Building known as "R.N.SQUARE".

Date of Demand Notice	26/12/2024
Amount Demanded	Rs.1,15,11,467.70 with further Interest, Cost and Expenses.
Date of Possession	20/02/2026
Virtual Account Details	Beneficiary Name: LIC Housing Finance Ltd Account No: LHFLBA411900015454, IFSC CODE: HDFC0000009
Reserve Price	Rs.67,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty-seven Lakhs Only)
EMD	Rs.6,70,000/- (Rupees Six lakh and seventy thousand only)
Total Amount payable as on date	Rs. 1,37,40,445.75/- (Rupees One crore thirty-seven lakh forty thousand four hundred forty-five rupees and seventy-five paisa only)
Website of E-Auction	https://online.lichousing.com/eauction/ & https://www.auctionbazaar.com/
Date & time of Inspection of Photocopies of property documents	4 MAY 2026 & 10:30AM to 3:00PM
Address where property documents can be inspected	BACK OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, LIC JEEVAN MANGAL, HAYES ROAD, RESIDENCY RD, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA 560025
Inspection of the Property Date for inspection and time	5 MAY 2026 & 10:30AM to 1:00PM
Contact person	Mr. A.S.R PHANINDRA, Associate Chief Manager, Mob No: 8008177199
Last date of submission of Online Tender / Bid	6 MAY 2026 till 3PM
E Auction Date & Time	7 MAY 2026 & 11 AM to 3PM

Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets / properties (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI, Act 2002 and rules thereunder) LICHFL invites OFFERS through online mode only to purchase the said property as per the following Terms and Conditions as mentioned below:

1. E-Auction Sale is being held on **'As is where is Basis is' and 'As is what is Basis', 'whatever there is Basis' And 'Without Any Recourse Basis', and will be conducted "Online".** The E-Auction will be conducted through LIC HFL approved E-auction service provider – Name of E-auction service provider (as published in newspaper advertisement) **2.** To the best of the knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, no other encumbrance exists on the mortgaged property, except as disclosed in the publications. However, the interested Bidders to conduct their own independent due diligence verifications regarding the Location and Identity of the property, Inspection of Public records in the Sub Registrars' Offices/Civil Courts, to find any encumbrances, statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, Income Tax, Excise Duty, Labor Dues, electricity, and maintenance dues, etc., of the Secured Asset. The Successful bidders shall have to bear all outgoing i.e., municipal taxes, maintenance/society charges, electricity charges, water charges, stamp duty, registration charges, (if applicable), if any and all other incidentals charges, cost including all outgoing relating to the respective properties over and above the Reserve Price. LICHFL will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, liabilities, etc., of whatsoever nature pending upon the properties as mentioned above. **3.** The intending bidders should register their names at portal "website of E-auction service provider" as mentioned in the auction sale notice (as published in newspaper advertisement). **4.** The E-auction Sale is subject to the conditions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act/Rules 2002 and the terms and conditions mentioned hereunder/ website also subject to conditions in the offer/bid documents to be submitted by the intending/participating bidders. **5.** Every bidder is required to have his/her own email address in order to participate in the online E-auction. Once Intending Bidder formally registers as a qualified tenderer before Authorized Officer of LICHFL, will have to express his/her interest to participate through the E-auction bidding platform, by submitting documents. It shall be the tenderer's/online bidder's sole responsibility to procure his/her login ID and password from the E-auction service provider. **6.** The aforesaid properties shall not be sold below the Reserve Price mentioned above. **7.** If the successful bidder defaults in effecting payments or fails to adhere to the terms and condition of E-Auction in any manner the amount already deposited will be forfeited and he/she shall not have any claim as such for forfeited amount. **8.** The offer/s along with the aforesaid Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) can be submitted **"online"** through the portal eg., **"www.auctionbazaar.com"** along with the EMD and scanned copy of KYC documents including PAN Card & (Aadhar Card) address proof, to the service provider, mentioned above on or before the Bid Submission due date & time as per other details of Auction above. Authorised Officer is not bound to accept highest offer made by the bidder if not acceptable to the secured creditor. **9.** Every Bidder shall deposit EMD before participating in E-Auction. The said Deposit/s shall be adjusted in the case of successful bidder/s, otherwise refunded. The said earnest money deposit/s will not carry any interest. **10.** Initial Bidding increment is **Rs 25000/-.** However, Authorised Officer will state bidding increment amount percentage for each property if, decided otherwise. **11.** The successful bidder/s shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the EMD paid already, within 24 hours of bid acceptance by the Authorized officer/next working day before close of cash hours, in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposited shall be forfeited. The balance 75% of the sale price is payable within 15 days from the date of confirmation of the sale unless decided otherwise by Authorised Officer in writing, the maximum period allowed is 90 days, beyond which time-period cannot be extended. In case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited. The Authorized Officer shall not be required to give any further notice of forfeiture to the successful bidder. **12.** The successful bidder should bear the charges/fees payable on sale certificate, such as registration fees, stamp duty, taxes, or any other duties payable for getting the secured asset transferred in his/her name. **13.** The Sale Certificate will be issued only in the name of the successful bidder and only after receipt of the entire sale price. **14.** The notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, Mortgagor/s and Guarantor/s that they can bring the intending buyer/purchaser for purchasing the properties mentioned above, as per the terms and Conditions of the E-Auction Sale. **15.** Inspection of the photocopies of documents and Property Inspection of the above said properties can be done on the dates stated in the advertisement. Interested bidders shall contact the designated official as per the other details of E-Auction mentioned above. All conveyance and other expenses related to Inspection of the property/document copies shall be borne by the interested bidders.**16.** The LIC Housing Finance Limited reserves the right to CANCEL / ACCEPT / REJECT / ALTER / MODIFY / POSTPONE the AUCTION without giving any reason whatsoever or prior Notice. **17.** The sale is subject to confirmation by the Secured Creditor, viz., LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 04.04.2026

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
L.I.C Housing Finance Ltd, Bangalore

"Euthanasia is still a complex issue in India, and we need more conversations about end-of-life choices. I may not be here forever, but the fight must go on" — H B Karibasamma

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

BE READY TO DEPLOY RARE MEASURES TO STEM RUPEE SLIDE

THE RBI did the unthinkable while clamping down on speculators playing the currency market. The rupee has been depreciating, and briefly even touched the psychological 95-mark against the dollar on March 30. The central bank's traditional tools involving dollar sales in the spot and forward markets were not helping even after exhausting over $30 billion in March alone. So it decided to pull the plug on banks' arbitrage trade, which involves buying dollars in Mumbai and selling them in Singapore, Dubai and London, where the dollar is priced higher, and profit from the difference. Per estimates, large domestic banks are running arbitrage trades in excess of $300-400 million. The RBI mandated all of them to reduce such exposures to $100 million by April 10. But the banks, instead of obliging, passed on the trades to corporates, importers and traders, forcing the regulator to issue follow-up orders on Wednesday to close all loopholes. Together, the measures may temporarily increase the supply of dollars and strengthen the rupee.

The question, though, is how long it will sustain the rupee's slide. On Thursday, the rupee did strengthen to close at 93.10. But once banks unwind their dollar positions, and if global crude oil prices continue to scale past $100 a barrel, the pressure on the Indian currency will be unavoidable. If the weakness continues unabated, analysts believe that interest rate hikes to defend rupee is less likely. Instead, the RBI may re-introduce measures like foreign currency non-resident subsidised swap windows to attract NRI deposits. It may also tighten liquidity conditions, raise effective money market rates to make it expensive for speculators to short the rupee. Other tools in hand include the government stepping in with restrictions and higher import duties on gold and non-essential imports, the RBI offering a forex swap window for oil marketing companies to tap dollars instead of going to the market, and tightening remittance scheme limits.

The central bank should stand ready to implement some of these measures, as clearly, the traditional forex interventions seem to have reached their acceptable thresholds. Controlling the rupee's weakness is paramount for the RBI's overall policy objectives including inflation forecasts. Its own models show that every 1 percent weakness in the rupee firms up inflation by 7 basis points. Even if pump prices remain unchanged for now despite higher global crude prices, the threat of anchoring inflation expectations needs to be closely monitored.

ENDGAME AMBIGUITY ADDS FUEL TO WEST ASIA FIRE

UNLESS Donald Trump stops swinging between claims of imminent victory and threats of escalation, and unless all sides move immediately towards an off-ramp, this war will not wind down soon—instead, it is likely to widen. The battlefield already tells that story. Critical infrastructure is increasingly being hit—drones hit Kuwait's Al Ahmadi refinery, while a US strike on a bridge near Tehran killed civilians celebrating Nowruz. Iran, far from being weakened, is demonstrating both reach and resilience—militarily across the region and diplomatically through a narrative of civilian losses. This reality sits uneasily against Trump's claim that the war is "very close" to completion.

The problem is not just of overconfidence; it is the absence of a clear endgame. What constitutes success? Degradation of Iran's military capacity, regime destabilisation, or securing maritime flows through the Strait of Hormuz? Each path implies different commitments and timelines. Without clarity, "victory" becomes a flexible claim rather than a measurable strategic outcome. That ambiguity is now feeding escalation. Trump's latest address paired assurances of a near-term finish with warnings of intensified strikes, including against Iran's power infrastructure. The message is contradictory. For adversaries, it signals unpredictability. For allies, it complicates alignment.

Meanwhile, Iran retains its most potent lever: energy disruption. Its ability to threaten traffic through the Hormuz Strait continues to send ripples through global markets. Moves at the UN Security Council to authorise defensive measures for shipping, alongside parallel diplomacy involving Gulf States and major powers, reflect a growing expectation that the conflict will persist. Dynamics in Washington add another layer of uncertainty. The abrupt removal of senior US Army leadership in the middle of an active conflict raises questions about continuity and coherence at the top of the command chain.

The risk is not just of a longer war, but a wider one—geographically, economically and politically. A conflict being touted as nearing its end, in reality, looks like expanding in scope and consequence. Unless rhetoric aligns with strategy, and strategy with conditions on the ground, the gap between what is promised and what is unfolding will only grow. And in that gap lies the real danger of a war drifting forward without a clear path towards its end.

QUICK TAKE

QUESTIONS FOR BIG BROTHER

IN one of the largest overhauls of surveillance infrastructure, India has barred the use of internet-enabled CCTV cameras sold by several Chinese firms from April 1. As part of the drive to enforce a new certification regime, Delhi is removing about 1.4 lakh cameras in phases. This comes not long after it was revealed that Israel's accuracy in identifying Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's location before assassinating the Iranian leader was possible because of its control over Tehran's dense CCTV network. Hyderabad, with about 79 cameras per 1,000 citizens, and Indore with 72 are among the most closely-watched cities in the world. If better security was the reason that trumped privacy concerns regarding overuse of CCTVs, we need a broader debate about the safest path forward.

The Supreme Court has crafted a nuanced jurisprudence on passive euthanasia. Parliament must now act, set up accessible procedures and define institutional responsibilities to embed safeguards

INSTITUTING THE RIGHT TO DIGNIFIED EXIT

C K G NAIR
Former member, Securities Appellate Tribunal

M S SAHOO
Former Chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

SOURAV ROY

ON March 11, the Supreme Court addressed one of the most difficult questions of life and death: whether, when and on what legal basis medical treatment may be withdrawn or withheld. In the *Harish Rana* case, it framed the issue not as whether it is in the patient's best interests to die, but whether it is in his best interests to prolong life with artificial support. This reframing shifted the debate from the morality of death to the legitimacy of prolonging life in conditions where dignity has irreversibly ebbed away.

The case arose from Rana, a 32-year-old man who remained in a persistent vegetative state (PVS) for over 12 years following a fall from his balcony. He was sustained on clinically-assisted nutrition and hydration (CANH) administered through a tube, with negligible prospects of recovery. It was a hard case at the intersection of law, medicine and ethics.

The court situated the issue within the constitutional framework developed in *Common Cause* (2018), where it held that the right to life under Article 21 includes the right to live with dignity, and therefore the right to reject an undignified existence. It recognised passive euthanasia by withdrawal of medical treatment and permitted individuals to execute advance medical directives, or living wills, specifying when life-sustaining treatment should not be continued.

Acknowledging a legislative vacuum, the court invoked Article 142 to lay down interim procedures governing withdrawal of life support, while expressing a "pious hope" that Parliament would enact a comprehensive law on end-of-life decisions. In 2023, the court streamlined these guidelines to address implementation challenges.

While Parliament is yet to act, the issue resurfaced in *Harish Rana*. His parents, after years of caregiving and unsuccessful attempts to secure relief from hospitals, approached the Delhi High Court, which declined permission to withdraw CANH on the ground that it did not constitute 'medical treatment'. A special leave petition before the Supreme Court also failed.

The family reframed the issue in a subsequent application, seeking the constitution of medical boards and a declaration that CANH is 'medical treatment'. This reframing proved decisive: successive medical boards the court convened confirmed that Rana was in a vegetative state with no realistic prospect of recovery and engaged directly with doctors, family members and counsel. It held that CANH is 'medical treatment' and that its withdrawal is in the patient's best interests. This clarification removes the ambiguity between 'care' and 'treatment' that could otherwise render the right to a dignified exit illusory.

The court reaffirmed the governing framework for discontinuing life support and applied it to the case. It emphasised that withdrawing or withholding treatment does not extinguish the patient's right to care; it marks a transition from curative intervention to a structured, medically-supervised palliative and end-of-life care plan.

The judgement reinforces the dual pathways envisaged in *Common Cause*. First, where an individual—while in a sound and conscious state—executes a living will, specifying in advance the circumstances in which treatment should be withheld or withdrawn, and authorises a representative to act on his behalf if he loses decision-making capacity. This is an expression of autonomy, an extension of personal liberty into the realm of end-of-life decisions.

Second, where no such directive exists, decisions to withdraw or withhold treatment must be made in the patient's best interests through a structured process involving medical boards, institutional oversight and procedural safeguards. This ensures that the absence of prior choice does not lead to arbitrariness.

Recognising the persistent implementation challenges, the court directed authorities to streamline the creation, preservation and retrieval of living wills, and to ensure the timely constitution of medical boards. These directions address longstanding attitudinal and logistical barriers that have limited the practical utility of living wills.

However, the judgement has a limitation: a patient in a vegetative state may lack the financial means to sustain prolonged artificial life support. This risks decisions ostensibly based on the patient's best interests may, in fact, be driven by economic compulsion, blurring the line between principled choice and financial exhaustion.

Earlier, the court directed that Rana be transferred to a government hospital to ensure continued care. It is, however, doubtful whether public hospitals can sustain such long-term care at scale. This gap is likely to widen. Advances in medical science prolong biological life. Simultaneously, demographic trends indicate a rapidly ageing population with a growing incidence of chronic and degenerative conditions. It results in an increasing number of patients requiring prolonged palliative care, intensifying the ethical and policy questions around dignity, autonomy and resources.

Through *Common Cause* and *Harish Rana*, the Supreme Court has crafted a nuanced and workable jurisprudence. It has moved from recognising a right in principle to making it operational in practice. But courts decide cases; they do not design systems. Without a law, families like that of Rana must still navigate uncertainty, often turning to courts for decisions that should be part of a structured and humane system.

A statute can do what judicial guidelines cannot. It can establish clear and accessible procedures; define institutional responsibilities; embed safeguards against misuse and integrate medical, legal and ethical standards into a coherent framework. It can also address systemic needs such as public awareness, professional training and the creation of efficient living will registries.

Jurisdictions such as the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada and Spain have enacted detailed laws governing end-of-life decisions, with varying approaches to eligibility, safeguards and oversight. While India need not replicate these models, they underscore the importance of legislative engagement with this complex domain.

The stakes are very high. A law on end-of-life decision-making must recognise that while life is sacred, dignity is inseparable from it. It must respect individual autonomy while protecting the vulnerable and enabling choice without misuse. Above all, it must ensure that no person is compelled to endure a prolonged, undignified existence merely because the system lacks clarity.

The Constitution has been interpreted. The right has been recognised. The framework has been laid down. It is now for Parliament to complete the task.

(Views are personal)

THE TOPOGRAPHY OF AI ONSLAUGHT

PRATIK KANJILAL
Senior Fellow, Henry J Leir Institute of Migration and Human Security, Fletcher School, Tufts University

SPEAKEASY

A pertinent confession: I graduated from high school with the help of a machine. It was called a slide rule, a logarithmic device for solving daunting computations. Before digital calculators, it was to engineers what a stethoscope is to doctors. It was such a definitive mark of their calling that the autobiography of the aeronautical engineer and popular fiction writer Nevil Shute was titled *Slide Rule*. In school, my arithmetic was execrable. Calculators were made for people like me, but were banned from classrooms at the time. However, slide rules were allowed, and one borrowed from my father got me through the exam.

Why was using a digital calculator regarded as cheating, but using a slide rule was not, though they perform exactly the same function? Was it moral unease about the legitimate fruits of labour? Did slide rules feel more legit because some manual labour is involved: you have to slide them, as the name suggests, and match scales to read off the results. Calculators are child's play in comparison, and thank god they have entered the classroom. Attitudes to work have changed—or have they?

Artificial intelligence is now inspiring moral panic like the calculator once did. Hachette has cancelled the US and UK release of the horror novel *Shy Girl* by new writer Mia Ballard following online accusations of the use of AI in passages. The publisher backed off when the popular YouTube book channel Frankie's Shelf dismissed it as "AI slop". Ballard clarified that a collaborator had used AI tools on the text of the self-published version, but it still looked like cheating.

Ironically, all mass market publishers have always encouraged cheating at scale by humans, with the consequence that the autobiography sections of bookstores are populated largely by ghost-writers. Did you seriously imagine that sportspeople and entrepreneurs can write engaging books? Their talents lie elsewhere.

Besides, until publishing houses burdened their editors with commercial concerns, they had the space to help authors refine their work and they even collaborated in the creative process, which is rather like AI assistance. The most famous beneficiary of such handholding was Raymond Carver, whose minimalist style was chiselled by drastic surgery by his editor, Gordon Lish, who cut stories down to the bone, removing descriptions, dialogue and detail to give the author his unique voice. Carver protested for fear of losing the voice he was born with, but gave in when he saw that it worked.

Many famous authors have profited from editorial nudging. Scribner's editor Maxwell Perkins, who actively sought out young writers he could influence, contributed materially to the success of F Scott Fitzgerald (he sharpened *The Great Gatsby*), Ernest Hemingway (he preserved the linguistic simplicity in *The Sun Also Rises*), Thomas Wolfe (machete-scale cuts) and Harper Lee (threaded stories into a novel with a point).

FLICKR

Many have made it in life with a little help from tech—from slide rule and calculator earlier to AI now. Coral Hart recently wrote an AI-assisted novel in 45 minutes. India needs to map the jobs and geographies where AI is likely to pose the greatest risks

Now, machines have stepped into the arena once dominated by passionate literary editors. Earlier this year, romance author Coral Hart got herself some extra mileage with a *New York Times* story which focused on her AI-assisted workflow—in the course of which she produced a new novel in 45 minutes. She now runs online workshops which teach new romance writers AI hacks with which anyone can create 'slop' in hours, while the competition takes months to write books that are probably just as sloppy. Isn't that clever? Genre readers value predictability over originality. They like a classical plot replayed well, whether it's the Ramlila or the hugely successful *Commando* war comics, which reused cels and storylines for decades, and no one complained because they wanted repetition.

The Hart story echoes the findings of the new American AI Jobs Risk Index of the Fletcher School at Tufts University, which has taken a nuanced approach to assessing risk, marking it apart from the lay debate on AI, which is polarised between hallelujahs to machine efficiency and uproars about apocalyptic anxieties. Its scale of AI exposure follows received wisdom—web and digital interface designers are most exposed to AI, and manual workers like miners are the least exposed. But it also recognises that risk and opportunity are interrelated—roles that are vulnerable to job losses to AI also stand to benefit most from AI augmentation and complementarity, which need not be the same thing.

The study offers a sliding scale, in which risk is weighted by clusters of factors. Bhaskar Chakravorti, Dean of Global Business at Tufts, who heads the university's Digital Planet programme, has emphasised that the ideal workers of the future will not be manual practitioners like miners and plumbers, but people who combine domain expertise and critical thinking with AI proficiency.

Significantly, the index brings policy clarity by mapping the risk of job losses to physical geography—plotting hubs of innovation and knowledge industries in the US where machine functions may swiftly replace highly specialised humans. In academic hubs, even minor job losses may assume huge percentage proportions.

India, which hopes to become an AI hub, should map the threat perception as if it were facing a military challenge. In all crises, the first step to relief delivery is an accurate ordnance map. As AI alters the landscape of work in unanticipated ways, mapping will become as essential for social planners as the slide rule once was to engineers.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @pratik_k)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Capital consensus

Ref: *Success of Amaravati* (Apr 3). Legal clarity is welcome, but political discord has delayed progress for long. Parties must collaborate on a time-bound plan, protect farmers' interests and ensure steady funding. Transparent governance and consensus-driven decisions can restore investor confidence and deliver a functional capital for citizens.
K Sakunthala, Coimbatore

Fifa foul

Ref: *Cup brimmeth over* (Apr 3). The outrageous pricing of tickets for the World Cup runs contrary to Fifa's avowed core objective of promoting accessibility and inclusiveness along with the development of football across the world. As a fan, I hope the ticket pricing is reconsidered.
N Rama Rao, Chennai

Redrawn maps

Ref: *Maritime trade chokeholds* (Apr 3). The warming Arctic is inclined to pour cold water on the leverage of strategic chokepoints. The Northwest Passage is shorter than the Panama Canal route and the Northern Sea route is shorter than the Suez route. As ice caps melt, global trade navigation is poised to become more reliable.
K S Mohana Murugan, email

Measured aid

Ref: *Benefits of freebies* (Apr 3). The debate needs nuance, not labels. Welfare must be targeted and outcomes measured rigorously. Governments should publish cost-benefit analyses, plug leakages and prioritise human capital. Well-designed support can enable mobility, but fiscal prudence and accountability must guide every intervention.
Swathi Senthilkumar, email

Top-heavy Congress

Ref: *Congress struggles* (Apr 3). The grand old party moved heaven and earth to get 28 seats from the DMK, and now is struggling to find appropriate candidates for five constituencies. It's mainly because the party has more leaders than workers, making the choice of contestants difficult. Every party should know their strength.
S Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

Mob justice

Ref: *Mob gheraoes* (Apr 3) It may be a first in the country where judicial officers were detained for over nine hours without food or water. It exposes the state of law and order in West Bengal. Unless the guilty are taken to task, the law of the jungle will prevail.
Sundaram Govind, Ernakulam

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**
Published by **N Gopalan** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 62, No. 80 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Sachin Pilot @SachinPilot
Universities and educational institutions cannot promote any particular ideology, and such events are against the sentiments of students.

Aaditya Thackeray @AUThackeray
Pune's rainfall yesterday wasn't in the category of cloudburst over a period of 4 hours, what was exceptionally visible is the failure of governance.

Yogi Adityanath @myogiadityanath
Congress used to incite riots, today the double-engine BJP government is working with full commitment to build a riot-free and curfew-free Assam

India, Russia eye trade stability

Russia's 1st deputy PM signals readiness to step up supplies of crude oil and LNG to India

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA and Russia have renewed their push to stabilise bilateral trade and expand economic cooperation amid shifting global geoeconomic dynamics, with a strong focus on energy security, logistics and investment.

The agenda was discussed at the Inter-Governmental Commission meeting co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov in New Delhi. The commission which is the key ministerial mechanism overseeing trade, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation discussed ensuring stability in mutual settlements and supply chains. Both sides also stressed the need to improve market access and accelerate joint investments and projects.

According to a statement from External Affairs Ministry, "both sides held wide-ranging discussions focusing on trade, industry, energy, fertilisers, connectivity and mobility, in addition to new opportunities in technology, innovation and critical minerals."

The talks took place in the backdrop of continued volatility in global energy markets triggered by the widening West Asia war. Russia signalled its readiness to step up supplies of crude oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) to India.

"Manturov confirmed that Russian companies have the capacity to steadily increase supplies of oil and liquefied natural gas to the Indian market," a statement from the Russian Embassy said. The statement added that energy cooperation remains a central pillar of bilateral ties. Russia also highlighted gains in fertiliser exports, with Manturov pointing out that the supplies of mineral fertilisers to India rose by 40% by the end of 2025. He expressed readiness to continue meeting India's agricultural needs.

Civil nuclear cooperation featured prominently, with both sides reviewing progress on additional power units at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant. "In line with agreed schedules, the project to construct power units is being implemented," the Russian statement said.

The MEA added that both sides reviewed progress on decisions taken during the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit held in December 2025 and "exchanged views on regional and global developments, including the conflict in West Asia." Manturov's visit also included meetings with PM Narendra Modi, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. Discussions with Doval are learnt to have covered defence cooperation, regional security and the war in West Asia. The visit comes days after India cleared procurement of an additional five units of the S-400 missile system.

According to sources familiar with the discussions, the interactions are seen as a shared intent to deepen the strategic partnership by reinforcing economic resilience, securing energy flows and expanding cooperation across both traditional and emerging sectors.

Progress on decisions from earlier summit reviewed

The MEA added that both sides reviewed progress on decisions taken during the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit held in December 2025. Manturov's visit also included meetings with the PM, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

Russia's First Deputy PM Denis Manturov meets EAM S Jaishankar on Friday | x

Both sides held wide-ranging discussions on trade, industry, energy, fertilisers, connectivity, and mobility in addition to new opportunities in technology, innovation, and critical minerals —MEA

After Op Sindoor chill, Azerbaijan & India warm up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIA and Azerbaijan have initiated efforts to stabilise bilateral ties strained by recent geopolitical differences, holding high-level consultations in Baku amid lingering tensions over regional alignments. Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Sibi George met Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov on Thursday, with both sides reviewing the relationship and exchanging views on regional and global issues.

The talks come in the backdrop of strains after Baku's support for Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, as well as differences over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The 6th round of India-Azerbaijan Foreign Office Consultations was held in Baku, co-chaired by Sibi George and Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister Elnur Mammadov. "They comprehensively reviewed the current state of bilateral relations covering areas of mutual interest," the MEA said.

Discussions spanned trade, technology, energy, pharmaceuticals, tourism, culture and people-to-people exchanges, along with cooperation in countering cross-border terrorism. In a statement, Azerbaijan also reflected underlying differences.

Cong split on Iran stand as Sharma says politicisation is nat'l disservice

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

SENIOR Congress leader and former Union minister Anand Sharma's praise for the BJP-led Centre's handling of the West Asia crisis drew a restrained response from his party on Friday, with Jairam Ramesh asserting that the Congress remains a democratic platform where diverse views can be expressed. Earlier, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor sparked a political row after he said that India's silence on the West Asia war is a responsible statecraft, not moral surrender.

On Thursday, Sharma hailed India's diplomatic handling of the West Asia crisis as "mature and skilful", saying it has helped the country avoid "potential minefields". He also urged India to take the lead in mobilising the Global South and strategic-partner countries to collectively work towards the restoration of peace and order in the region. This was at variance with the position taken by Congress leadership, which has raised serious doubts about the direction and credibility of India's foreign policy. The party was 'dissatisfied' with the response of the government's handling of the West Asia crisis' at a recent all party meeting convened by the Centre to discuss the same. However, Sharma in his statement said that national unity and a mature response guided by national interest is the need of the hour. "India's response must be backed by a national consensus and resolve. Government has held an all-party meeting to apprise the leadership of political parties of the situation and policy decisions in an unpredictable and volatile situation. This national dialogue should be sustained. National unity and a mature response guided by national interest is the need of the hour," the Congress leader said.

Asked about Anand Sharma lauding the Modi government's handling of the West Asia crisis, Ramesh said, "This is an example and it clearly establishes that the Congress is the only democratic party in the country."

Sharma had described India's diplomatic approach as "mature and skilful", crediting it with steering the country clear of potential pitfalls, even as his remarks diverged from the party's broader stance on the issue. Sharma has handled the commerce and external affairs ministries during the UPA regime. "The world cannot remain a mute spectator to the collapse of rule based multilateral order and global crisis management mechanism. India has throughout history commanded respect for its moral authority and commitment to peace. There is much at stake, especially the future of the younger generation," he said.

Not just Sharma, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath also put the party in an awkward spot with his remark that 'there is no shortage of domestic LPG cylinders in the country but the government's arrangements on the issue are lacking amid the West Asia crisis.

Kamal Nath too puts party in awkward position

Not just Sharma, former Madhya Pradesh chief minister and Union minister Kamal Nath also put his party in an awkward spot with his remark on LPG supplies in the country. "There is no gas shortage in the country, but the government's arrangements are lacking. There is sufficient gas in the country, but an atmosphere is being created that is causing distress to people," Nath said on Friday.

Cong: Spl session a violation of Model Code of Conduct

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Friday cautioned the Union government against taking any hurried move to amend the Constitution for delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies, saying that such changes could place states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala at a disadvantage vis-a-vis populous states in the north.

Addressing a press conference, Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said that the government's push for the rushed delimitation exercise would have "dangerous consequences". The Congress leader's remarks come after it emerged that the Budget session of Parliament would be reconvened on April 16 after a brief recess to pass bills to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 816, so that the women's reservation law could be implemented. "We do not want any disturbance in the present differentials and relative strength," Ramesh said adding that the Centre has to proceed with care as the issue is sensitive.

Leaders of Opposition in the two Houses, Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, will call a meeting of senior Congress MPs and then hold discussion with other Opposition leaders before April 16 to make a strategy on this issue.

Ramesh alleged that the government has called a "special session" of Parliament for passing bills related to amending the women's quota law and delimitation to "grab political mileage" in the West Bengal and Tamil Nadu elections, which was a "gross violation" of the model code of conduct.

The Congress MP further said that although there was no formal proposal from the government regarding delimitation, the party has learnt informally that there is a proposal to amend Articles 81 and 82 of the Constitution and the government might propose increasing both parliamentary and assembly seats proportionately by 50 per cent.

He said the claim is that it would be proportional but the reality is that smaller states and those in the south, Northeast, and west would suffer massively, while Uttar Pradesh's strength would zoom to 120. "So what we have heard unofficially is that this would be very dangerous for many states," he said.

'In reality, the smaller states would suffer'

Jairam Ramesh said that the claim is that it would be proportional but the reality is that smaller states and those in the south, northeast, and west would suffer massively, while Uttar Pradesh's strength would zoom to 120. "So what we have heard unofficially is that this would be very dangerous for many states," he said.

CBSE plans 3-language formula from Class 6

IFRAH MUFTI @ New Delhi

REVAMPING a course of study aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP), the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Friday announced a new curriculum framework that will introduce a three-language formula from Class 6 and a two-level system in mathematics and science for Class 9, beginning the 2026-27 academic session.

The new framework shows a shift in how subjects are structured and assessed, with a focus on flexibility, multilingualism, and competency-based learning. According to officials, the three-language formula will be implemented in a phased manner, with students from Class 6 required to study three languages, at least two of which must be Indian. The languages will be organised under a structured framework comprising R1, R2, and R3 levels, as recommended by the National Curriculum Framework (NCF).

The third language (R3) will be introduced for Class 6 students from the 2026-27 session, ensuring that learners study a minimum of two Indian languages. However, officials clarified that the R3 component will not yet be mandatory for Class 9 students. Full implementation of the three-language formula will take effect when the current Class 6 batch appears for board examinations in 2031.

CBSE stated that the provisions for exemptions will remain in place for students returning from foreign schools where the third language studied is not available in India, though they will still be required to meet the overall subject requirements.

A major structural reform will also be introduced in mathematics and science at the secondary level. From Class 9 onwards, students will follow a two-tier system comprising a mandatory standard level and an optional advanced level. All students will appear for a common three-hour, 80-mark standard examination.

Those opting for deeper subject engagement can take an additional one-hour advanced paper of 25 marks, designed to assess higher-order thinking and conceptual understanding.

Importantly, performance in the advanced paper will not be added to the overall aggregate score. Instead, students securing 50 per cent or more in the advanced component will have this achievement recorded separately on their mark sheets. The first batch of students to take Class 10 board examinations under this new system will do so in 2028.

The board is also expanding its focus on emerging skills, with computational thinking and artificial intelligence being gradually integrated into the curriculum. These subjects have already been introduced as modules with internal assessments for Classes 9 and 10 and will become compulsory board examination subjects for Class 10 by 2029. Foundational exposure has also been initiated for students from Classes 3 to 8.

In addition, CBSE has made art education, vocational education, and physical education mandatory for Classes 9 and 10. While art and physical education will continue to be assessed through internal school-based evaluations, vocational education will become a compulsory subject.

Art, vocational, physical edu must for Classes 9, 10

In addition, CBSE has made art education, vocational education, and physical education mandatory for Classes 9 and 10. While art and physical education will continue to be assessed through internal school-based evaluations, vocational education will become a compulsory subject with an annual or board examination from the 2027-28 academic session.

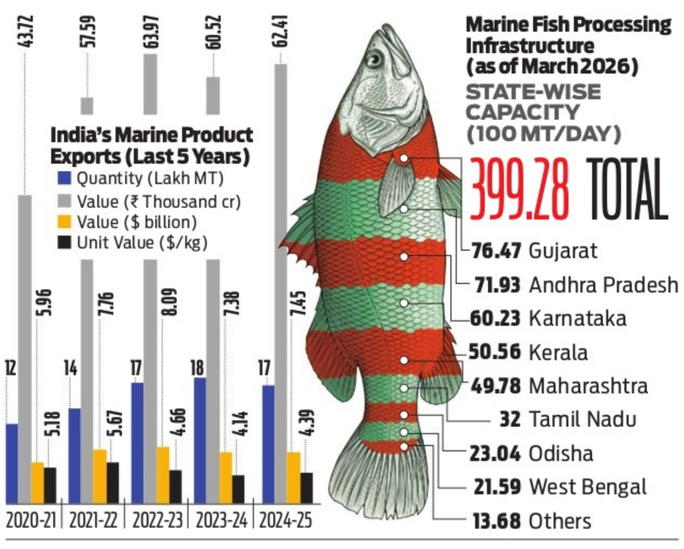
Exports up, but earnings down in seafood boom

VISMAY BASU @ New Delhi

INDIA'S seafood exports have surged in volume but weakened in value, caused by a dip in the rate of the seafood internationally. Data placed in the Lok Sabha on April 2, 2026, by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in reply to a question by Tangella Uday Srinivas (MP, Kakinada) shows exports rising from about 11.5 lakh metric tonnes in 2020–21 to nearly 17.8 lakh metric tonnes in 2023–24, before a slight dip. Export earnings crossed $8 billion at their peak, yet unit prices fell sharply from $5.67 per kg to about $4.14–4.39 per kg, indicating that higher shipments are fetching lower returns.

This divergence comes amid turbulence in India's key export market. The United States, which accounts for roughly a third of India's seafood exports, imposed tariffs of up to 50% in 2025, sharply raising costs and eroding competitiveness. Shipments to the US dropped steeply in the latter half of the year, with some months seeing declines of over 50% year-on-year as buyers shifted to lower-tariff suppliers such as Ecuador. The tariff shock split the export cycle. Volumes held up earlier in the 2025, but prices and orders weakened later as supply chains adjusted. Exporters were forced to cut prices to retain market share, contributing to the fall in unit value even as aggregate quantities remained high. Industry estimates suggest seafood exports could fall by around 20% in adverse conditions, with some shipments to the US projected to decline sharply due to tariff burdens. The tariffs were partially eased to around 18% in early 2026, offering some relief, though the gap with competing countries remains. At home, processing capacity continues to expand. India now has 671 marine fish processing units, with Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh leading, followed by Kerala. These states form the sector's industrial base, while eastern states such as West Bengal and Odisha lag behind.

Government support is channelled through schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana and Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry. Together, they have supported projects worth over ₹1,800 crore, focusing on cold chains, mechanisation, and value addition. Despite this push, the sector remains tied to bulk exports. The fall in unit prices suggests limited movement up the value chain.



West Asia spoofing blamed for death of radio-collared tiger in MP's Satpura

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

A recent investigation by the government has revealed that the death of a tiger in Madhya Pradesh is linked to the West Asia war. Wildlife experts are now calling for accountability and an audit of the effectiveness of the technology used for wildlife conservation.

Rakhi Nanda, the Field Director of the Satpura Tiger Reserve (STR), reported that a radio-collared tiger became untraceable after its signal lost contact with the satellite due to the war. In her report submitted to the Chief Wildlife Warden (PCCF-WL) in Bhopal, Nanda explained that the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), which provided the radio-collar and tracking technology, notified her that the Gulf conflict had disrupted the signal transmission from the collar to the satellite, resulting in the loss of the tiger's last known location.

On March 27, forest officers discovered that the radio-collared tiger had been poisoned, buried, and its collar burned by poachers. Wildlife experts are demanding an immediate audit of all radio-collared tigers and accountability from the agencies responsible for supplying collars. Ajay Dubey, a wildlife expert in Bhopal, has criticised the use of "international war" as an excuse for local monitoring failures and is calling for a thorough explanation.

Nanda submitted her final report on March 28, detailing the sequence of events. According to the report, a tiger from Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) was relocated to STR on December 24, 2024, with a collar provided by WWF. The tiger established its own territory, and there were no reports of human-animal conflict during that time. Consequently, the Chief Wildlife Warden ordered the removal of the collar on December 30, 2025.

To remove the collar, the field director required a team of elephants, veterinarians, and a rescue squad. Nanda noted that due to multiple issues, including the rescue of leopards in human habitats and the conservation and relocation of swamp deer and Indian bison, the collar could not be removed within the subsequent two months.

WILDLIFE

Three persons, including an elderly man, were trampled to death by wild elephants in two separate incidents in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district on Friday, police said.

2 HELD FOR MURDER OF BIZMAN IN J'KHAND'S PALAMU

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	22	Mumbai	31	26
Bhopal	37	21	Panaji	32	25
Jaipur	36	19	Patna	36	21
Amritsar	30	25	Lucknow	36	20
Chennai	34	25	Port Blair	31	26
Kolkata	35	24	Imphal	22	15
Srinagar	04	-4	Chandigarh	37	18

In Assam, home minister says Cong fights elections but never talks about tribal welfare ● The DGP asked to submit a report within 2-3 days

'Vote us to power again, we'll give 1 cow & 1 buffalo'

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday promised that the BJP would give one cow and one buffalo to each tribal family in Assam if re-elected.

Shah, who also holds the Cooperation portfolio, made this commitment while campaigning for BJP candidates Tankeswar Rabha (Dudhnoi) and Pabitra Rabha (Goalpara West) at a rally in Dudhnoi in Lower Assam's Goalpara district. The area has a sizeable tribal population, particularly Rabhas, Garos and Bodos.

"The Dudhnoi river used to be called the river of milk. But is there any dairy here? Elect these two candidates on the dais, and BJP will set up a large dairy in every district and give one cow and one buffalo to every household of each tribe," he promised.

Goalpara has four Assembly constituencies, two of which—Dudhnoi and Goalpara West—are reserved for Scheduled Tribe candidates.

Referring to the BJP's commitment to tribal welfare, Shah said the Union Budget allocation for tribals remained at ₹25,000 crore until 2013, but PM Narendra Modi increased it to ₹1.38 lakh crore. He added that Modi had also promoted the art, culture, food habits, attire, songs and dances of tribal communities across the country.

"The Congress fights elections but never talks about tribal welfare. Even after 75 years, the Congress did not make an Adivasi woman the President of India, but Modi ji made our sister Droupadi Murmu the President," Shah said.

He blamed "infiltrators" for the recent violence in Meghalaya's Garo Hills region, claiming they attempted to take control of the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council.

"Should we not stop the infiltrators? The Congress had made Assam a haven for infiltrators. If the Congress forms the government again, infiltrators will enter our tribes. Vote the BJP to power for a third time and we will send the infiltrators back," Shah said.

He added the BJP had identified all infiltrators during its two terms and sought five more years, promising that the party would drive them out.

Speaking about the alleged rise in the population of infiltrators, he urged people to form a government under the leadership of Modi and Himanta Biswa Sarma, stating that the BJP would introduce a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and prevent practices like polygamy.

"The Congress threatens tribals by saying that UCC will be applicable to them. Let me assure you that no tribal will come under the UCC's ambit. We know who the UCC should be introduced for," he said.

He highlighted that the NDA restored peace in Assam by signing accords with insurgent groups, adding 10,000 youth had laid down their arms.

Shah alleged that whenever he spoke about the troubled period of the Assam Agitation, Rahul Gandhi questioned why he referred to the past. "But we have to remember the past mistakes made by the Congress and ensure they are not repeated," the home minister said.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the NDA would not allow the Congress and the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) to change Assam's demography.

At a rally in Barpeta, he alleged that the two Opposition parties had played with Assam's culture. "The NDA's resolve is to not allow Assam to become the land of love jihad and land jihad," Yogi added.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses a public meeting at Goalpara district, ahead of Assam Assembly polls, on Friday | PTI

Main accused in gherao of judicial officers held

Two days after the gherao of seven judicial officers, including three women, at the Kaliachak-II BDO office in Malda district, West Bengal Police arrested advocate Mofakkarul Islam, an alleged mastermind, from Bagdogra airport on Friday. He was reportedly trying to flee to Bengaluru. A senior police official said, "Islam is the key man behind the Kaliachak incident. He was trying to board a flight to escape." His associate was also detained at the airport.

What about withdrawal of state security for 'tainted' politicians, EC asks Bengal

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

THE Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday sought a status report on its directive to withdraw government security cover for politicians with criminal antecedents in Bengal ahead of polls. The deadline for withdrawing the cover expired at midnight on Thursday and the EC wanted the nodal officers to submit a compliance report by Friday noon.

The Election Commission has sought a detailed explanation from DGP Siddh Nath Gupta regarding the rationale behind deploying 2,1285 police personnel to protect 832 ruling Trinamool leaders and workers, along with nearly 140 supporters. The EC has asked the DGP to submit a report within two to three days.

Leaders "who have been granted bail or are out of jails on parole" across parties will no longer receive state security. The move, taken 22 days before the first phase, has created a "flutter among all parties." The EC asked DMs and police chiefs to lift "unnecessary" security and reassess so-called threat perceptions.

Police have been ordered to "nab those persons who are accused in non-bailable cases within 10 days". Senior officers, including SDPOs and DSPs, have been tasked with preparing lists of absconders and launching "targeted raids" to apprehend them. Station-level officers must identify "crime-prone pockets" and track history-sheeters. Also, the EC has directed both the police to expedite the disposal of poll-related criminal cases from previous polls.

The EC emphasised equal security for all campaigns and protection of poll personnel. After reviewing violence linked to voter list disputes, it decided to extend the deployment of central armed paramilitary forces even after the counting on May 4. Around 500 companies will remain deployed.

Cops clueless for months

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Poll officials

RAIPUR DIARY

EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh
ejaz@newindianexpress.com

Police address public grievances with AI

The Kanker police have officially stepped into the future, launching an AI-based complaint management portal designed to dismantle the traditional barriers between the public and the police station. For the average citizen, the new practice prioritises accessibility and transparency through several key features. A dedicated WhatsApp bot guides users through the registration process and instant tracking via unique ID. Upon resolution, the complainant is automatically informed. Citizens can provide feedback on their experience. Besides, there remains an AI dashboard to monitor efficiency behind the scenes.

'Police can't interfere in private acts of worship'

In a judgement upholding religious freedom, the Chhattisgarh HC has ruled that individuals do not require prior permission from authorities to conduct prayer meetings within their private residences. By ruling that the police's intervention based solely on the act of prayer is "not justified", the order has set a precedent that protects the values of equality, privacy, and faith. The judgement places a direct responsibility on the state government and the executive branch. The petitioners from Janjgir-Champa district claimed they had been hosting peaceful Christian prayer meetings in their home since 2016, but local police targeted them with continuous harassment.

6 lakh rural housing units within a year

The state government has set a new record completing over six lakh houses in the financial year 2025-26, the highest in the country. The alignment of schemes—Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Gramin, PM JANMAN Yojana and Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana—has helped speed up execution and extend coverage. 5.87 lakh houses were completed under PMAY-G, around 13,000 under the PM JANMAN Yojana, and over 10,000 under the Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana in a year, apparently reflecting steady monitoring and time-bound implementation. Special attention is being given to transparency, quality, and eligibility in the implementation of housing schemes.

ATS busts terror module, arrests 4 for planning arson at key installations in UP

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

A suspected terror module, allegedly operating under the directions of Pakistani handlers, was busted by the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) on Friday. The ATS arrested four persons for allegedly planning arson attacks on railway infrastructure and conducting reconnaissance of key installations and public assets.

According to officials, intelligence inputs indicated that an India-based group was in continuous contact with the Pakistan-based handlers through social media platforms and was involved in anti-national activities aimed at creating panic and economic disruption.

The ATS sources said that the probe revealed that the gang was led by 25-year-old Saqib, alias Devil, a resident of Meerut, who allegedly maintained links with the handlers across the border via platforms such as Telegram, Signal, and Instagram. He was also reportedly connected to radical groups and was in touch with some entities in Afghanistan.

The module was tasked with carrying out recce of important institutions, political figures, railway signal systems, and vehicles, and sharing inputs with handlers in Pakistan. The ATS sources added that the group planned to damage railway signal boxes, set fire to gas cylinder-laden trucks, and target prominent establishments. In some cases, the accused had already carried out minor arson incidents, recorded videos, and sent them to their handlers in exchange for money. Police said two were recruited through social media and allegedly conducted reconnaissance activities.

5 killed in hooch tragedy in 'dry' Bihar, probe on

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

AT least five people died, and 15 others developed health complications, including blurred vision, after allegedly consuming spurious liquor in Bihar's East Champaran district during the past 24 hours on Friday. This is the second incident of hooch in the dry state in less than a month.

Police said that six people were undergoing treatment at Government Sadar hospital in Motihari, district headquarters town of East Champaran, while seven others were discharged after preliminary treatment. The condition of three victims is stated to be critical.

The deaths took place in villages under the Turkaulia and Raghunathpur police station limits. East Champaran district magistrate Saurabh Jorwal, however, confirmed only four deaths and said, "The death toll has now mounted to four. Bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination."

Swarn Prabhat, SP, East Champaran, suspended the station house officer (SHO) of Turkaulia police station, Umashankar Manjhi, with immediate effect.

U'khand govt eyes population control law after UCC: Dhami

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

RIDING on the momentum of successfully implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)—making it the first state in India to do so—the Uttarakhand government is now signalling its intent to bring a population control law.

With a keen focus on preserving the state's demographic integrity, CM Pushkar Singh Dhami has indicated that the government is actively studying measures to ensure the cultural and social fabric of 'Devbhoomi' remains untarnished.

Speaking on the potential move, CM Dhami emphasised that the primary objective is to maintain existing demographics and prevent unauthorised demographic shifts.

"Our focus is to ensure that the state's cultural values remain intact and that there is no infiltration. After the historic implementation of the UCC, we are now discussing and deliberating on further legislative measures, including population control, to ensure the state's sustainable growth," the chief minister stated.

Political analysts view this move through the prism of the upcoming 2027 assembly elections. For the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), securing a third consecutive victory is the ultimate goal, while the Congress party is desperate to break its two-term losing streak. The introduction of such a policy is likely part of the BJP's broader strategy to consolidate its core voter base.

State BJP media in-charge, Manveer Chauhan, clarified that the proposed legislation is not intended to target any specific community. "The government's intent is purely developmental—to reduce the burden on the state's limited resources. We have been consulting with experts and diverse social groups. Furthermore, we are studying the population control models adopted by states like Uttar Pradesh and Assam to draft a policy tailored to Uttarakhand's geography and demographics," Chauhan said.

The proposal, however, has drawn sharp criticism from the opposition. Congress state spokesperson Mohan Kala dismissed the move as a diversionary tactic. "The Dhami government has failed on critical fronts such as unemployment, law and order, and inflation. They are now raking up emotive issues to distract the public from their governance failures," Kala alleged.

Policy likely part of BJP's poll strategy

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C'garh moots rehab plans for 31K Bastar tribals

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

THE Chhattisgarh government has initiated a comprehensive action plan to rehabilitate displaced tribal families who migrated from the earlier conflict-ridden South Bastar region to the neighbouring states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh during the controversial Salwa Judum (anti-Maoist campaign) two decades ago.

A high-level survey has identified that 31,098 individuals from 6,939 families have migrated from the south Bastar region to 651 villages across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh due to various regional conflicts and socio-economic reasons faced during the year 2005-06. The first meeting of the newly formed state-level inter-departmental committee was chaired by additional chief secretary (Home) Manoj Kumar Pingua.

Official data presented during the meeting highlighted the significant scale of migration from three key districts of the Bastar division: Dantewada, Sukma, and Bijapur.

To comply with this, the Bastar Divisional Commissioner has instructed the collectors of the three districts to submit detailed reports within 15 days through a time-bound survey.

The initiative follows a petition filed with the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) on behalf of the displaced families. In response, the Commission has directed the state to conduct a survey and provide a list of migrated families within a month.

Valasa Adivasulu Samakhya, an organisation based in Telangana, had earlier petitioned the NCST and submitted a list of over 48,000 displaced Bastar residents following their survey and verification process years ago. Pingua emphasised the need for precision in data collection. The district collectors must cross-reference data with original villages to ensure accurate rehabilitation.

Senior Maoist, who once had ₹1 cr bounty, dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Ranchi

PRASHANT Bose, 75, a Politburo member of the banned CPI (Maoist), also known as 'Kishan Da', died on Friday morning at Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Ranchi after prolonged illness. The 80-year-old once carried a reward of ₹1 crore on his head.

Bose and his wife were arrested in 2021, and since then, they had been lodged in Ranchi's Birsa Munda Central Jail. Bose started with the Maoist Communist Centre of India (MCCI), where he rose to become a top leader. After the merger of the MCCI with People's War (PW) in 2004, he became a Politburo member of the CPI (Maoist).

Shock and disbelief in Gujarat as idol seller slapped with ₹20 cr I-T notice

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

A shocking incident has come to light in Gujarat's Dakor town, where a poor idol seller Chirag Jagdish Bhaiya has been slapped with an income tax notice of nearly ₹19.84 crore, which could be a case of possible misuse of his identity credentials or plain administrative failure. Ironically, the small-time vendor struggles to earn ₹200 a day.

Chirag sells idols made of plastic and fiber in Dakor's Gomati Ghat area. He got a surprise when he received a letter through registered post from the Income Tax Department at his rented accommodation. It contained a notice which stated that transactions worth ₹19.84 crore have been recorded in his name. It showed that transactions worth ₹11.86 crore took place in 2021-22, followed by another ₹7.98 crore in 2022–23.

The notice Chirag received from the department bore postage stamp worth ₹5,500, which could very well match Chirag's monthly earnings. Chirag said, "I make small idols and earn just ₹100 to ₹200 a day. If I cannot run my house properly, how will I hire a lawyer to reply to the IT department?"

Chirag was compelled to seek counsel of his neighbours to understand the implication of the notice. They were surprised to see that a small-time vendor with no assets, no stable income and no financial footprints ended up with crores of rupees worth of transactions in his name. They cautioned him about the possibility of identity theft where his documents could have been misused or a technical glitch within the system of the I-T Department.

Chirag is yet to hear from the I-T authorities in this matter.

Crypto marriage trap in Italy, ₹57L fraud unearthed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD police have busted a cyber fraud racket spanning Ahmedabad, Dubai and Cambodia, in which the accused used a marriage ruse to trap a lawyer and routed the proceeds of the crime through the crypto route. The lawyer lost ₹57.90 lakh to the racket that involved a China-lined syndicate.

The lawyer from Ahmedabad, hoping to start a new life in Italy, found himself ensnared in a scam, where a young woman, posing as his prospective partner, first gained his trust and then steered him into investing in cryptocurrency.

38.6 mm
rainfall during the 24 hours from Thursday 10 am in Karachi, surpassing the 1985 record of 37 mm

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

WAR PINCH

Pak announces free transport, B'desh shortens office hours

ISLAMABAD/DHAKA

STATE-RUN public transport in Pakistan's capital and most populous province will be free for the coming month, officials said on Friday, after the government drastically raised fuel prices due to spiking global energy prices caused by the war.

The announcement follows a late-night decision to impose a 42.7-percent rise in the price of petrol and 54.9 percent on diesel, which prompted several street protests.

Long queues of motorbikes were also seen at fuel stations.

"All public transport in Islamabad will be made free of cost for the general public for the next 30 days, starting tomorrow," interior minister Mohsin Naqvi wrote on X.

The government will bear a burden of 350 million rupees (around $1.25 million), he added. The chief minister of Pakistan's most populous province, Punjab, also lifted the cost of travel for state-run public transport, and announced "targeted subsidies" for trucks and buses. Bangladesh cut office and shop hours and banned decorative lighting at weddings starting on Friday as it seeks to conserve energy stocks.

Bangladesh imports 95% of its oil and gas needs, mostly from the Middle East and said that, while there are adequate stocks of petrol and diesel, it hopes to mitigate the effects of "unsecured" supply lines.

About 60% of its electricity is generated using imported gas, while diesel is primarily used for farming in the region. Dhaka ordered all government, private offices and banks to shut an hour earlier each day starting Friday until further notice. "The fuel supply line is unsecured... both government and private offices will run from 9 AM to 4 PM, while banks will remain open from 9 AM to 3 PM," top government secretary Nasimul Gani told reporters at a news briefing late Thursday. *Agencies*

UNSC vote today on resolution to secure the strait

Bahrain-led motion calls for measures to ensure safe transit through Strait of Hormuz

WASHINGTON

THE United Nations Security Council will vote on a draft resolution proposed by Bahrain Saturday on reopening the Strait of Hormuz, even as permanent members China and Russia voiced opposition to earlier versions of the text that would have allowed use of force by countries.

The draft Security Council resolution affirms that the Strait of Hormuz is open for all transit passage. No state has the right to close or control it. It authorises States to take "exclusively defensive measures" to secure transit passage and deter any acts to impede international navigation through the Strait.

It also provides a clear legal basis for all States to mobilise and support safe passage while following international law and international humanitarian law. The draft resolution says that countries using this authorisation must notify and report to the UN, ensuring transparency and adherence to international law.

It creates a monitoring mechanism with monthly reporting by the UN Secretary-General so the UN Security Council can take further action based on new developments, the Permanent Mission of the UAE to the UN said. Bahrain, supported by the GCC and Jordan, has proposed the Security Council resolution on the Strait of Hormuz, which will be put up for a vote in the 15-nation Security Council on Saturday. Bahrain is currently the President of the Council for the month of April. It is learnt that an initial version of the draft resolution had language that would have allowed countries "to use all necessary means" in the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to ensure passage.

However, veto-wielding permanent members Russia, China and France are understood to have opposed approval of the use of force. The final draft now has language that states are authorised to take "exclusively defensive measures" to secure transit passage. The Council was originally scheduled to vote on the resolution on Friday, but

the UN headquarters is closed on the occasion of Good Friday. The vote is scheduled for 11 am (local time) Saturday.

Last month, India had co-sponsored a resolution in the UN Security Council that condemned in the strongest terms the "egregious" attacks by Iran against Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Jordan and demanded immediate cessation of all attacks by Tehran. The Security Council, under the Presidency of the US in March, had adopted the resolution with 13 votes in favour, none against and abstentions by veto-wielding members China and Russia. *AP*

Bibi: 70% of Iran's steel production capacity hit

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Friday that Israeli strikes have destroyed about 70 percent of Iran's steel production capacity, significantly hindering its ability to manufacture weapons. Steel is a strategically important material used in industrial and military production, including of missiles, drones and ships. "Together with our American friends, we continue to crush the terror regime in Iran. We are eliminating commanders, bombing bridges, bombing infrastructures," Netanyahu said in a video statement. "In recent days, the Air Force has destroyed 70 percent of Iran's steel production capacity," Netanyahu said in the statement.

Thick plumes of smoke rising following airstrikes in Baharestan, in Iran's central Isfahan province on Friday | AFP

Trump administration seeks $1.5 tn defence budget as war drives costs

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump asked lawmakers on Friday to approve a massive $1.5 trillion defence budget for 2027, as the United States faces rising costs from its war with Iran and mounting global security commitments.

The proposal would lift Pentagon spending by more than 40% in a single year—the sharpest increase since World War II —as Washington seeks to sustain military operations and rebuild depleted weapons stockpiles. The request highlights the growing financial pressure of a conflict now in its fifth week, and sets up a political battle in Congress over how to fund a dramatic expansion of military spending.

Trump has framed the defense increase in urgent terms, arguing that military investment must take precedence during wartime, even at the expense of federal social programs.

"It's not possible for us to take care of day care, Medicaid, Medicare," Trump said at a recent private event, adding that such responsibilities could be handled at the state level while Washington focuses on "military protection".

The budget outline, released in summary form, is not binding but serves as a statement of the administration's priorities as Congress begins drafting spending legislation. Lawmakers retain the power to rewrite or reject the plan.

Trump is urging Congress to approve the bulk of the defense budget–more than $1.1 trillion–through the standard appropriations process, while seeking to pass a further $350 billion using a party-line mechanism that would bypass Democratic support. Republican leaders have shown openness to that approach, particularly as they push for higher defense and immigration enforcement spending. *AFP*

WAR WATCH

Adding to the war kitty

Donald Trump's request to lawmakers to approve a massive $1.5 trillion defense budget for 2027 highlights the growing financial pressure of a conflict now in its fifth week

$2 billion
per day is the estimated cost of Iran war according to US media reports

CUTS TO DOMESTIC PROGRAMMES PROPOSED

To offset part of the increase, the administration is proposing around $73 billion in cuts to non-defense spending—roughly 10 percent—targeting a range of domestic programs including environmental initiatives, housing assistance and education funding

White House officials say the reductions would eliminate what they describe as wasteful spending and shift some responsibilities back to state and local governments

NO WIGGLE ROOM

The United States is already running annual shortfalls approaching $2 trillion, with total debt exceeding $39 trillion, leaving limited fiscal space for new spending without further widening the gap

US Army's top uniformed officer, two generals sacked in major shake-up

WASHINGTON

THE Trump administration has fired army chief of staff General Randy George and two other senior figures, officials said Friday, in a surprise shake-up just as US forces are locked in a major war against Iran.

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth's ouster of George, the top US Army general, meant the latest in a series of high-profile departures from the military since President Donald Trump returned to power a year ago.

There was little in the way of a public explanation for sacking George, a highly decorated veteran who oversaw the army at a time when the United States is more than a month into a punishing bombing campaign against Iran that Trump says will continue several weeks more.

Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell posted a statement on X late Thursday that George "will be retiring from his position... effective immediately."

During a nearly four-decade military career, George deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan multiple times and also served in positions including vice chief of staff of the army and senior military assistant to then-defense secretary Lloyd Austin during Joe Biden's term as president.

The army's vice chief of staff General Christopher LaNeve will take over as acting chief of staff, CBS reported. Hegseth previously said LaNeve is "a battle-tested leader with decades of operational experience." An official also confirmed that General David Hodne and Major General William Green Jr. were removed alongside George. *AFP*

Earth as seen through the Orion spacecraft's window, photographed by NASA astronaut Reid Wiseman, commander of Artemis II | AFP

Artemis astronauts blast towards Moon

HOUSTON

FOUR Artemis astronauts were zooming towards the Moon late Thursday after a major engine firing, a milestone that commits NASA to the first crewed lunar flyby in more than half a century.

With enough thrust to accelerate a stationary car to highway driving speed in less than three seconds, the Orion capsule engine blasted the astronauts on their trajectory towards the Moon, which they now will loop as part of the 10-day Artemis 2 mission.

In the moments that followed what the US space agency dubbed a "flawless" firing that lasted just under six minutes, astronaut Jeremy Hansen said that "humanity has once again shown what we are capable of."

The astronauts said they were "glued to the window" taking pictures, and later passed a floating microphone back and forth as they took questions from various American television networks

They said the spacecraft was a little chilly and they were still making it a home, but the crew was all smiles. "There's nothing that prepares you for the breathtaking aspect of seeing your home planet both lit up bright as day, and also the Moon glow on it at night with the beautiful beam of the sunset," said Christina Koch.

Thursday's nudge came one day after the enormous orange-and-white Space Launch System (SLS) rocket carrying the Orion capsule launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida for the long-anticipated journey around the Moon.

The astronauts are now on a "free-return" trajectory, which uses the Moon's gravity to slingshot around it before heading back towards Earth without propulsion.

"From this point forward, the laws of orbital mechanics are going to carry our crew to the Moon, around the far side and back to Earth," NASA official Lori Glaze said. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

Sri Lanka arrests 152 in Chinese-run cyberscam

Colombo: Police in Sri Lanka arrested 152 foreign nationals, mostly Chinese, on Friday for allegedly running a cyberscam operation out of a hotel in the island's northwest, officials said. The raid took place in the coastal town of Chilaw, 80 kilometres north of Colombo, following a tip-off, police spokesman Frederick Wootler told AFP. "Those involved in scamming will be dealt with under our criminal law, while others could be deported," Wootler said. Local police sources said two Chinese men who tried to escape during the raid were injured and admitted to hospital.The other suspects appeared in a local court and were remanded in custody until April 9.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I the undersigned advocate on behalf of my clients **Sri. Mukunda, S/o late R. Muniraju**, aged about 32 years, R/at: Huttanahalli village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore, Urban District and others have filed the above petition for the death certificate of **One late Kum. Kavitha D/o late R.Muniraju who died on 01-03-2006** at Huttanahalli village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District if any 3rd parties who have objections may dispute regarding the same can appear before the Hon'ble Addl. Civil Judge and J.M.F.C at Devanahalli and the date hearing **on 20.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M in C.Mis.No.252/2026.**

By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
B.R. Sunilkumar, Sudharshan M.N. Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the property described in the Schedule below from its current owners: Smt. Shobha, wife of Late Mayanna, Shri. Tejas M, son of Late Mayanna, Shri. Venkatesh, son of Late Mayanna, Smt. Padma, daughter of Late Mayanna, Smt. Manjula, daughter of Late Mayanna, Shri. Chennegowda, son of Late Yellegowda, Smt. Suma, daughter of Shri. Chennegowda, Smt. Sowmya, daughter of Shri. Chennegowda, Smt. Puttamma, daughter of Late Yellegowda, Smt. Gowramma, daughter of Late Yellegowda, Smt. Devi, wife of Late Ramu, Shri. Suraj, son of Late Ramu, Smt. Puttamma, daughter of Late Yellegowda, Smt. Jayamma, daughter of Late yellegowda. If any General Public having any claim, share, right or interest with respect to below mentioned schedule property shall submit his/her/its/their objections along with related documents with the under signed within a period of **07 DAYS** from the date of this publication. Failure to do so will result in my client proceeding with the sale transaction with the above-mentioned owners, assuming that there are no third-party claims, objections, or disputes regarding the Schedule Property. No claims, objections, or disputes will be entertained thereafter.

Schedule Property : All that piece and parcel of the immovable agricultural land below mentioned Survey No. 34/1, measuring 1 acre 36 guntas (old Survey No. 398), situated at Bhaijapura Village, Veerupakshapura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka. East by : Property belongs to Kempamma, West by : Survey No. 34/2, North by : Survey No. 21, South by : Survey No. 13

Shri. Naveen Kumar G, Advocate,
M/s. Adwaya Associates, No. 41/1,
2nd floor, 2nd Main, 3rd Cross, Bazar Street, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560 018.

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1st Corrigendum to E-Tender Notice No. 45-TRD-GSUBKN-ETender-2025-26

E-tender notice No. 45-TRD-GSUBKN-E-Tender-2025-26, scheduled to be opened on 22.04.2026, Technical specification of some items of tender have been updated and accordingly tender document have been modified. All other terms & conditions shall remain same.

Sr. Div. Electrical Engineer/TRD &
486-AJ/26 **GSU N.W.R., Bikaner.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public at large that our client **Sri. A N Ramalingam** S/o Sri. A R Nagaraja Setty and **Sri. Karthik Kumar A R** S/o Sri. A N Ramalingam intend/propose to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner Sri. SHIVASWAMY S H S/o. Sri. Hanume Gowda, aged about 50 Years, Residing at No.412/1, 5th Main, 8th Cross, NGEF Layout, Mallathahalli, Bangalore 560056. He represents that he is the absolute owner having clear and marketable title over the Schedule Property. ALL PERSONS including individuals, Hindu undivided family, companies, banks, financial institution(s), non-banking financial institution(s), firms, association of persons or a body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any benefits, objection, demand, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of schedule property or any part or portion thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, gift, trust, inheritance, succession, family arrangement/ settlement, bequest, possession, lease, tenancy, maintenance, easement, memorandum of understanding, license, share, assignment, lien, attachment, development rights, partnership, right of way, lis pendens, decree or order of any judicial/quasi-judicial authority, reservation, contracts/ agreement, power of attorney, option, FSI consumption, right of first refusal, pre-emption or any liability or commitment or otherwise of any nature whatsoever, are hereby requested to inform the same in writing, supported with the original documents, to the undersigned at the address mentioned below **within a period of 7 (seven) days** from the date of the publication of this notice, failing which, the claim or right, if any, of such person or persons shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and thereafter our client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction with the owners referred above.

-: SCHEDULE PROPERTY: -

All that piece and parcel of property bearing residential vacant site No. 42 & 43, New BBMP E-PID No. 7741290260, Municipal No. 2086/697/43,42 formed in portion of land bearing Survey No. 27, duly converted for non-agricultural residential purpose vide Order No. B.DIS.ALN.SR.(N)90/2002-03, dated 24.01.2003, by the special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, situated at Gidada Konenahalli Village, Nisaraga Layout, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore 560091, measuring East to West : 40ft and North to South : 40Ft. Totally measuring 1600Sqft together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and with No civic amenities like water, electricity and others and bounded By:-

EAST BY :: 30 feet Road,
WEST BY :: Site No. 54 and 55,
NORTH BY :: Site No. 44,
SOUTH BY :: Remaining Southern Portion of same site No.42

SAIPRAKASH B, ADVOCATE
BNB Associates
#1st Floor, 311/1, 26th Cross Rd, Siddanna Layout, Banashankari Stage II, Bengaluru 560070
Email: saiprakashbhaskar9@gmail.com,
Phone: 9620787733

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Savithramma W/o Anandh R/a. Yarthiganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk.

We hereby declare that my client has Lost the below mentioned Original Title deeds Near Sub-registrar, Devanahalli, on 04th April 2026.

The Document of title Original Title deeds with respect to Khaneshumari No.105/48 measuring 40×30 feet situated at Yarthiganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Sale Deed executed by K.Amar Nayak in favor of Savithramma, bearing Doc No.614/2012-13 dated 07/05/2012, registered in the office of the SRO, Devanahalli, Further Police complaint has been lodged on 03/04/2026 in Online bearing Lost Report.No.2137831/2026 to this effect which has been duly acknowledged. The above Public Notice is now issued. Any person having claim/in possession of the said document may represent to the under signed within **14 days** failing which it will be taken that there are no claims.

A.Prashanth, Advocate
No.3755, SAMPRATHI, DESHADAPETE
Doddaballapur Town-561203. Mob : 9886628181.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II
BSNL Building, 4th Floor,
Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road,
Bangalore - 560 001
O.A. No.2393/2024

Between:State Bank of India Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, No. 11/9, 3rd Floor, Near Old Shivaji Theater, J. C. Road, Bangalore - 560 002. **....Applicant**

And

Mr. Bhaskar K., S/o. Keshava Govindappa, Aged about 34 years, R/o. No. 366, Nivedhyam, Ground Floor, Karnshree Layout, 2nd Stage, Virgongar, Kithaganur Village, K. R. Puram, Bengaluru- 560 049, Phone No. 9620620989.

Also at : M/s. Pro Unlimited Global India Pvt. Ltd., No. 10, Shantipura Main Road, Electronic City Phase II, Bangalore - 560 100.

And Also at : Flat No. E-4, Fourth Floor, "Sri Krishna Residency" Yelachenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore - 560 078. **...Defendant**

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

Whereas, the Applicant Bank has instituted an application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against you for the recovery of sum of **Rs.85,04,909/-** (Rupees Eighty Five Lakhs Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Nine Only) together with current and future interest,and other reliefs.

You hereby required to show-cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on the **13.05.2026 at 10:30 a.m.** in person or through a Pleader / Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case default the application will be herd and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal on 08.01.2026. Sd/-

Signatue of the Officer
Authorised to Issue summons.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/TZ(O)/Bgkt/SEE(O)/AEE-8/F-2/26-27/509-16 **Dated : 02.04.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites tenders on electronic mode for the following works including Supply of materials / equipments, Erection, Civil works, Testing & Commissioning.

1) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-54/25-26/110KV SRSPHCUGC. Tender No. KPTCL/2025-26/UC/WORK_INDENT3539 for Repair of punctured 110kV 240 sqmm XLPE UG Cable of **110kV SRS-PHC** line near Settlement area in Hubballi City, Dharwad District in Operation Division, KPTCL Hubballi on **Partial Turnkey Basis. Work Reserved Category :** SC

2) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-33/25-26/110KV Siddapurbrkrrplcmnt. Tender No. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3554 for Replacement of 2 no's of MCVCB feeders by Outdoor PCVCB feeders at **110KV SIDDAPUR SUB-STATION** on **Partial Turnkey Basis. Work Reserved Category :** SC

3) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/220KV/EL/25-26/Sharavathi-Sirsi1and2DCline. Tender No. KPTCL/2025-26/TL/WORK_INDENT3536 for Replacement of existing age-old Suspension and Tension porcelain insulator strings by Composite Polymer Long Rod Insulators for various road crossings of **220KV Sharavathi-Sirsi 1&2 DC** line in TLM section Sirsi of Operation Division Sirsi on **Total Turnkey Basis. Work Reserved Category :** ST

4) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/EL/25-26/Honnavar-MurdeshwarSCline. Tender No. KPTCL/2025-26/TL/WORK_INDENT3533 for Replacement of existing age-old Tension porcelain insulator strings by Composite Polymer Long Rod Insulators for various locations of **110KV Honnavar-Murdeshwar SC line** in TLM section Kumta of Operation Division Sirsi on **Total Turnkey Basis. Work Reserved Category :** CAT-II(A)

5) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/220KV/EL/25-26/Ankola-KumtaSCline. Tender No. KPTCL/2025-26/TL/WORK_INDENT3535 for Replacement of existing age-old Tension porcelain insulator strings by Composite Polymer Long Rod Insulators for various locations of **110kv Ankola-Kumta SC line** in TLM section Kumta of Operation Division Sirsi on **Total Turnkey Basis. Work Reserved Category :** OTHERS

6) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/220KV/EL/25-26/Sirsi-Hubballi1&2DC. Tender No. KPTCL/2025-26/TL/WORK_INDENT3534 for Replacement of existing age-old Suspension and Tension porcelain insulators strings by Composite Polymer Long Rod Insulators for various road crossings of **220KV Sirsi-Hubballi 1&2 DC** line in TLM section Sirsi of Operation Division Sirsi on **Total Turnkey Basis. Work Reserved Category :** OTHERS

7) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/EL/25-26/Sirsi-Kumta1&2DCline. Tender No. KPTCL/2025-26/TL/WORK_INDENT3532 for Replacement of existing age-old Suspension/Tension porcelain insulator strings by Composite Polymer Long Rod Insulators for various locations of **110KV Sirsi-Kumta 1&2 DC line** in TLM section Sirsi of Operation Division Sirsi on **Total Turnkey Basis. Work Reserved Category :** OTHERS

8) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-40/25-26/110KV Karwarbrkrrplcmnt. Tender No. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3555 for Replacement of 2 no's of MCVCB feeder by Outdoor PCVCB feeders at **110kV S/S Karwar** coming under Operations Division, Sirsi on **Partial Turnkey Basis. Work Reserved Category :** CAT-I

The tenders will be received through e-procurement portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **16:30 Hrs IST of 06.04.2026.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele.),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Opp. Sector. No. 45, Navanagar, Bagalkot-587103.

$688.05 BN Foreign exchange reserves the Reserve Bank has reported for the week ending March 27, down by $10.28 billion

Two other vessels – Green Asha and Jag Vikram – are expected to follow in the coming days

Tanker with 44k tn LPG heads home

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

A liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) carrier transporting about 44,000 tonne (kt) of LPG is currently en route to India after crossing the Strait of Hormuz, according to ship-tracking firm Kpler. This will be the seventh LPG carrier to reach India since the Iran war begun on February 28, 2026. It also indicated that two additional vessels—Green Asha and Jag Vikram—are expected to follow in the coming days.

Green Sanvi is expected to arrive at an Indian port on April 12, with Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) listed as the buyer. However, the other two LPG vessels remain stranded on the western side of the Strait of Hormuz.

"LPG carrier Green Sanvi, carrying 44 kt of LPG en route to India, is currently transiting the Strait of Hormuz, with Green Asha and Jag Vikram likely to follow in the coming days as the LPG situation remains tight. India remains highly exposed to LPG supply amid the Strait of Hormuz blockade," said Sumit Ritolia, lead research analyst at Kpler on X.

As per shipping ministry, at least 10 foreign-flagged energy tankers carrying oil and gas cargoes meant for India are currently stranded in the region, along with 18 India-flagged vessels anchored west of the Strait of Hormuz. With this movement, only 17 India-flagged vessels will remain in the Strait of Hormuz. So far, only six cargoes have reached India through the route since the crisis in the West Asia.

The ongoing conflict in West Asia has significantly reduced vessel movement through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy chokepoint. India imports nearly 60% of its LPG requirements, and about 90% of these imports pass through this route, making the disruption particularly concerning.

To ensure that domestic consumers—estimated at around 33 crore households—are not impacted, the government has diverted LPG supply away from commercial users such as restaurants and industries to domestic users. Alongside this, domestic production has been ramped up, with the government stating that LPG output has increased by around 40% since the crisis began.

The government has acknowledged that LPG supply remains critical due to the prevailing geopolitical situation but has reported no dry-outs at LPG distributorships so far. For commercial users, partial supply has been gradually restored, raising total commercial LPG supply to 70% of pre-crisis levels.

1 Green Sanvi will be the 7th LPG carrier to reach India since Iran war begun

2 Green Sanvi is expected to arrive at an Indian port on April 12

3 With this, only 17 India-flagged vessels will remain in the Strait of Hormuz

4 10 foreign-flagged, 18 Indian-flagged energy tankers meant for India stranded in the Gulf region

Crude tanker reroutes from India to China

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

AN Iranian tanker carrying crude oil that was en route India over the past three days has now changed course and is heading towards China instead, according to ship-tracking firm Kpler. The vessel is now bound for the port of Dongying, with an expected arrival on April 29, instead of its earlier destination of Vadinar.

As per Kpler, the rerouting is likely linked to payment-related issues, with tighter terms being imposed. The tanker Ping Shun is carrying about 600,000 barrels of crude oil loaded from Kharg Island around March 4. Earlier, it was expected to arrive at Vadinar on April 4, according to Kpler data.

"Iranian vessel en route India over the past 3 days has dropped India as destination near arrival and is now signaling China. Per market sources, issue is likely payment-related, with tighter terms. If resolved, crude could still head to an Indian refinery," said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst (Refining and Modelling) at Kpler.

The rerouting comes amid ongoing tensions in West Asia, which have disrupted cargo movement through the Strait of Hormuz—a critical passage that handles around 20% of the world's crude and gas supply. In response to the situation, the United States issued a 30-day sanctions waiver for Iranian oil already at sea. As per the Office of Foreign Assets Control, the waiver applies to oil loaded on vessels on or before March 20 and discharged by April 19.

Reports suggest that an estimated 95 million barrels of Iranian oil are currently at sea. Meanwhile, according to India's Shipping Ministry, at least 10 foreign-flagged energy tankers carrying oil and gas cargoes meant for India are stranded, along with 18 India-flagged vessels anchored west of the Strait of Hormuz. So far, six cargoes have managed to reach India from the region.

More measures to address rising freight, insurance costs

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

THE government is likely to take more measures to address the challenges faced by the exporters and freighters on increased freight costs, said a commerce ministry source faware of the matter. The source confirmed that the government will likely take steps to bring some relief in terms of rising insurance premiums.

"Customs duties have been tweaked after the war began to ensure availability of petrochemical products. We aim to address concerns on increased freight costs due to diversion of exports via longer routes. We are considering some relief on the insurance front too," said an official aware of the matter.

There has been a huge surge in shipping costs, with freight rates rising over 200-300%. War risk insurance premium has also gone up. As per exporters and freight forwarders, several shipping firms and ports have imposed a war risk surcharge ranging from $500 to $4,000 for cargo moving to and from the Upper Gulf, Arabian Gulf and Persian Gulf due to disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz.

The Centre has started taking steps to mitigate the economic fallout of the ongoing West Asia crisis, with a focus on ensuring supply stability and easing cost pressures on industry. To help exporters mitigate risk, the ministry launched RELIEF (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) scheme, a ₹497 crore initiative to support exporters with increased ECGC risk coverage (95-100%) and partial reimbursement (50%) for freight costs to impacted exporters and MSMEs from March to June 2026.

On Thursday, finance ministry announced a full Customs Duty exemption on key petrochemical products till June 30, 2026. The move aims to ensure continued availability of key petrochemical inputs for the domestic industry, cut cost pressures on downstream sectors, and safeguard supply stability in the country. Officials assured that several ministries are monitoring the impact of ongoing crisis and adequate measures will be taken to ensure that higher logistics costs do not erode export competitiveness.

'RAMPING UP INDUCTION COOKER PRODUCTION'

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Power are working on a plan to scale up production of induction heaters and compatible cooking vessels as part of measures to reduce dependence on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) amid the ongoing West Asia crisis, as per government sources.

DPIIT Secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Power Secretary Pankaj Agarwal, and Director-General of Foreign Trade Lav Agarwal had held a meeting to explore ways to step up production of induction heaters and cooking vessels, as the Centre looks to keep pace with the growing demand of these appliances and reduce dependence on cooking gas amid the ongoing West Asia crisis.

There has been a sharp rise in sale of induction cookers since the war broke out due to a growing concern among masses over LPG availability and price volatility. As per media reports, data from Flipkart till mid-March indicates induction cooktop sales have tripled in the past 4-5 days as against the previous three to four weeks.

According to the sources, if the conflict persists for several more months, India will have to be ready to tackle the challenges that may arise. Thus, the government is preparing contingency measures.

FORECAST

Tractor sales growth likely to slow down to 0-3% in FY27

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

TRACTOR sales surged sharply in the financial year 2025-26, with major original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) posting double-digit volume growth. This growth momentum, however, may hit a roadblock as analysts forecast FY27 growth slowing to 0-3% amid high base effects and emerging El Niño risks

Ratings agency Crisil stated that tractor sales growth is projected to slow sharply to 0-2% year-on-year to about 1.2 million units in FY27. This follows an estimated 22% on-year rise in FY26, primarily driven by rationalisation of the goods and services tax (GST) rates, while a favourable monsoon further supported farm incomes and demand.

Anuj Sethi, Senior Director, Crisil Ratings said that a healthy reservoir levels supporting upcoming crop cycle and stable tractor prices could lend some support in the first half of fiscal 2027. However, a potential El Niño may weigh on demand momentum in the second half, he added.

El Niño is a climate pattern characterised by abnormally warm ocean surface waters in the central-east Pacific, which weakens global trade winds and frequently triggers below-normal "lower" monsoon rainfall in India.

Ratings and research firm ICRA stated that the tractor industry wholesale volumes grew by 22.8% in 11M FY2026, supported by favourable monsoons, improved agricultural output and GST reduction on tractors. "Industry volumes are expected to reach an all-time high in FY2026. However, growth is likely to moderate to 1-4% in FY2027, given the high base and expected normalisation in demand," it added.

West Asia conflict: Steel, aluminium prices up 25% in last one month

SANAL SUDEVAN @ Chennai

THE prolonged war in Iran has started showing impact on steel, aluminium and other key raw materials used in the infrastructure sector. Prices of steel and aluminium have risen by 20-25% within a month — from ₹51,000 per tonne to ₹62,000, and from ₹290 per kg to ₹376 per kg, respectively.

Companies are also facing significant logistical challenges in sourcing certain products from the Gulf after the US and Israel launched an assault on Iran.

The price of South African thermal coal has increased by 12-15% on a freight-on-board (FOB) basis, while Indonesian coal prices are up 16–18%. Contractors and suppliers expect a further 10–15% rise in input costs in the short term, over and above the already elevated 20–25% rise seen in last month.

Manan Sanghavi, MD of Hammers Infrakon LLP, said, "Steel prices have gone up from ₹52 a kg to ₹62 and aluminium from ₹290 to ₹376. Gypsum and melamine prices have risen by nearly 17-18%. While these two do not directly impact costs significantly, delays in laminate supplies and price escalations are affecting us as laminates use melamine." Gypsum is applied before painting and is often used as a substitute for PoP.

> **For steel sector, price of premium low-volatile hard coking coal spiked to 13-month highs due to global supply tightness and mine disruptions in key sourcing regions** —Vedant Goel, director, Enlight Metals

Indian mills have been importing significant quantities of limestone from West Asia, particularly the UAE and Oman. "With the current conflict, import volumes are estimated to have declined significantly," said Sehul Bhatt, director, Crisil Intelligence. Coking coal prices, meanwhile, were trending higher in the early months of the current quarter but cooled off by 5-6% in March, despite higher freight costs, he added.

"Crucially for the steel sector, the price of premium low-volatile (PLV) hard coking coal recently spiked to 13-month highs (surpassing $207 per tonne FOB) due to global supply tightness and mine disruptions in key sourcing regions. Ocean freight rates also have jumped by nearly 40% almost overnight, fundamentally altering the landed cost of these raw materials," said Vedant Goel, director of Enlight Metals. "Volatility in finished steel prices is likely to persist for the next few months. However, moderation in demand growth will keep significant price hikes in check. In FY27, the average price of flat steel is likely to be 2-4% higher year-on-year, while that of long steel may be lower year-on-year," Bhatt said. The domestic market typically maintains 0.9–1.0x monthly demand inventory across stakeholders in the finished steel value chain.

The industry expects steel prices to rise to ₹63,500-64,500 per tonne if the war continues.

Dabur sees strong Q4 biz momentum

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

FMCG major Dabur India Ltd reported steady business momentum for the quarter ended March 31, 2026 (Q4 FY26), with strong domestic demand helping offset disruptions in key international markets, particularly the Middle East.

In a quarterly update ahead of its detailed earnings, the company said its India business remained resilient amid a stable macroeconomic environment. However, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, triggered by the US-Israel-Iran conflict, led to demand disruptions and supply chain constraints in the region.

The India FMCG business saw a sequential recovery and is expected to post high single-digit growth during the quarter. The Home and Personal Care segment continued its strong performance, likely growing in the mid-teens, driven by categories such as hair oils, shampoos and home care, which are expected to clock growth in the twenties.

In the healthcare segment, products such as Dabur Honey, Honitus, health juices and the Hajmola franchise are likely to deliver robust double-digit growth. Overall healthcare growth is expected to remain in the low single digits, impacted by weaker performance in Dabur Glucose due to unseasonal rains in key markets in March.

The foods and beverages segment showed sequential improvement and is expected to post low single-digit growth. While categories such as foods, Real Activ juices and coconut water recorded over 20% growth, the out-of-home portfolio was affected by unseasonal rains.

FMCG business sees sequential recovery

India FMCG business saw a sequential recovery and is expected to post high single-digit growth during the quarter. Home and Personal Care segment continued its strong performance, likely growing in the mid-teens

Flex office mkt sees growth on demand from GCCs

PADMINI DHRUVARAJ @ Bengaluru

FLEXIBLE office sector has entered a new phase of growth, with rising enterprise demand from global capability centres (GCCs), expanding office supply and stronger financial performance across major operators, according to the myHQ by ANAROCK Q3 FY26 report.

The report says the sector has now crossed the 100 million sq.ft mark. This reflects both rapid expansion and growing acceptance of flexible workspaces as a long-term business solution.

"Corporate deal sizes have risen sharply as organisations place greater value on speed, flexibility, and scalability. As India crosses the 100 million sq ft mark, we're building the infrastructure for how modern India will work and grow," said Utkarsh Kawatra, Co-Founder and CEO, myHQ by ANAROCK, in the quarterly report.

GCCs account for major share of leasing activity

A key shift highlighted in the report is the rise of enterprise leasing. GCCs now account for a significant share of leasing activity, with the future outlook section placing GCC's share of leasing at 39% in Q4 CY25.

A key shift highlighted in the report is the rise of enterprise leasing. GCCs now account for a significant share of leasing activity, with the future outlook section placing GCC's share of leasing at 39% in Q4 CY25. The report also notes that the average enterprise deal size has doubled from 25 seats to 53 seats between 2023 and 2025.

This demand has been matched by continued expansion from major operators. In Q3 FY26, WeWork India operated 1,21,638 desks, while Smartworks managed 2,09,000 desks and IndiQube 1,72,863 desks, according to the report. Occupancy remained strong for most operators, with WeWork India, Smartworks and IndiQube all reporting around 84% utilisation. The sector's financial performance also showed signs of improvement. The report notes that multiple listed operators reported profits in the same quarter for the first time.

ASIANOMICS

CHINA

SERVICES ACTIVITY GROWTH COOLS IN MARCH

Growth in China's services activity slowed in March from February's 33-month high as softer demand and a fall in overseas orders weighed on momentum, a private-sector survey showed on Friday (April 3). The RatingDog China General Services purchasing managers' index, compiled by S&P Global, fell to 52.1 in March from 56.7 in February, remaining above the 50-point mark that separates expansion from contraction. The reading contrasted with an official survey released earlier this week showing services activity edged up in March, partly because the two surveys cover different samples. China's economy started the year on a firmer footing with a surge in exports driven by AI-related technology demand, quickening industrial output, and a rebound in retail sales and investment. But escalating conflict in the Middle East has rattled global trade and energy markets.

JAPAN

BOJ KEEPS RATEHIKE DOOR OPEN AMID IRAN WAR

The Bank of Japan will keep raising interest rates if its economic forecasts hold, Reuters reported citing a senior central bank official, reinforcing a tightening bias even as fresh surveys show firms feeling the pinch of rising fuel costs linked to the Iran war. While higher oil prices pose risks to growth, they could push up underlying inflation by raising long-term inflation expectations, said Koji Nakamura, the BOJ's executive director overseeing monetary policy, in parliament on Friday. The oil-driven pressure on inflation might be bigger than in the past as companies are becoming eager to push up prices and wages, he said. "If our economic and price projections were to materialise, we will likely continue to raise interest rates," Nakamura said, adding that the degree and timing of future increases will depend on economic, price and financial conditions.

THAILAND

NO DRASTIC POLICY ADJUSTMENT NEEDED YET: BOT CHIEF

Thailand's central bank chief said there was no need for a drastic monetary policy adjustment at the moment, despite expectations of a rise in inflation driven by higher oil prices amid the war in the Middle East. An immediate rate hike would hurt demand and would not help address the problem, Vitai Ratanakorn told an online news show aired on Thursday, adding there was no plan for an unscheduled policy meeting. Vitai said the war might reduce Thailand's economic growth by 0.5 to 0.7 percentage points and push up inflation to 3%, based on the current assumption that the war would end within three months. Exports were expected to rise 2% to 3% this year, compared with a rise of 3% to 4% seen earlier, Mr Vitai said. Vitai said there was no stagflation and the impact of the war on the economy and inflation remained manageable.

Gattuso resigns as Italy coach after WC flop

Gennaro Gattuso quit as Italy coach on Friday, as the Azzurri's failure to reach a third straight World Cup continued to send shockwaves through Italian football. A World Cup winner in 2006, Gattuso leaves after less than a year in charge of Italy, a team which has fallen far behind historic rivals like France and Spain in the last two decades.

BCB writes to BCCI, wants to mend relationship

ENS @ Chennai

IN its bid to improve the strained relationship with the Indian cricket board, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has written a letter to the BCCI seeking revival of cricketing ties between the two countries. The letter, as per a BCCI source, also mentioned the proposed India tour to Bangladesh, which originally was planned for 2025 but postponed to 2026.

"Yes, the BCB has written a letter to the BCCI," the source from the Indian cricket board told this daily. "The Bangladesh board cited formation of an elected government in the country and emphasised on need to revive the cricketing ties between the two countries. The BCB also wrote about the white ball bilateral series scheduled in Bangladesh later this year. The two boards have always had cordial relationship and the BCB wanted to revive it," added the source.

The BCB officials didn't respond for their comments on the issue despite repeated calls and messages. Notably, the relationships between the two boards hit a new low after Bangladesh refused to travel to India for the T20 World Cup. It also demanded the International Cricket Council (ICC) to shift Bangladesh's matches to Sri Lanka citing example of Pakistan, who were allowed to play their games at a neutral venue. The ICC headed by Jay Shah had a few rounds of talks with the BCB but the two parties could not reach an agreement. As the talks failed, the world governing body decided to replace Bangladesh with Scotland in the tournament forcing Bangladesh to miss the marquee event.

It all started with Kolkata Knight Riders releasing Bangladesh's pacer Mustafizur Rahman months ahead of the Indian Premier League. The decision followed protests in the country over atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh.

"Due to the recent developments which is going on all across, BCCI has instructed the franchise KKR to release one of their players, Mustafizur Rahman of Bangladesh, from their squad and BCCI has also said that if they ask for any replacement, BCCI is going to allow that replacement," Devajit Saikia, the BCCI secretary, had said after Mustafizur's release in January this year.

The Kolkata franchise also issued a statement within a few hours and said, "The release has been carried out following due process and consultations, upon the instruction of the Board of Control of Cricket in India." KKR had acquired services of Mustafizur in the mini-auction for ₹9.2 crore.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

In battle between Kings, Punjab come out on top

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

AFTER Punjab skipper Shreyas Iyer's composed fifty, Shashank Singh (14 n.o) and Marcus Stoinis (9 n.o) completed the chase of 210 runs against Chennai Super Kings to win by five wickets at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Friday. With this loss, CSK's winless run at home in the IPL extends to six.

Shashank and Stoinis, known for their explosive cameos, played sensible shots to help chase the target with eight balls to spare.

Iyer — with his upright open-chested stance and a very high back lift — played his shots with freedom and will. That helped him to play the upper cut as well as the pull shot with ease. His end came when he holed out Anshul Kamboj to Rahul Chahar at deep point. By then, his job was done.

Coming in at 95/2, Iyer, along with orange cap holder Cooper Connolly, made sure that the scoreboard kept ticking. Nehal Wadhera also lent good support and helped his skipper by holding at one end and rotating the strike. In the beginning of the chase, Punjab openers Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh stitched a 61-run partnership for the opening wicket to give the visitors a strong start. It was CSK's Kiwi pacer Matt Henry who gave the breakthrough. Arya's attempted pull shot did not meet the ball, instead castling his off-stump.

Earlier, Ayush Mhatre's valuable 73 and contributions from Shivam Dube (45 n.o) and Sarfaraz Khan (32) helped Chennai Super Kings post 209 runs for five in 20 overs. The 31,000 gathered at the arena enjoyed Mhatre's knock and Sarfaraz's calculated assault. Mhatre, riding on the generosity of the Punjab fielders played one of his authoritative innings for CSK. He started to attack from the word go and reaped rich dividends. He was at ease playing all the fast bowlers of Punjab, but had problems against leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal.

BRIEF SCORES

CSK 209/5 in 20 ovs (Mhatre 73, Dube 45 n.o, Sarfaraz 32; Vijaykumar 2/38) **lost to** PBKS 210/5 in 18.4 ovs (Shreyas 50, Prabhsimran 43).

Put in to bat, The hosts lost their star batter Sanju Samson early for just seven runs. This was Samson's first game at Chepauk after joining CSK. The crowd expected a good knock from the Kerala-wicketkeeper batter, but that was not to be. For the first 10 balls, both Samson and Ruturaj Gaikwad played patiently without trying anything big. Samson thumped the 11th ball from Xavier Bartlett between the gaps wide of mid-off for four. Then, in the very next ball, Samson moved away from the stumps and wanted to play a similar shot to the previous one, but all he could manage was an edge to Prabhsimran Singh, behind the stumps with Bartlett bagging the prized scalp. As soon as Mhatre joined Gaikwad, a run-fest followed.

Ayush displayed excellent stroke play with his sense of timing and placement. He exploited the 15 yard field restriction and notched up 15 runs of a Xavier over. He struck three consecutive boundaries off the Australian pace bowler to send the crowd into wild celebrations. Mhatre's sixes were all out of his confidence which grew after the early carnage. His front-foot six off a snorter from Marco Jansen sailed into the stands at square leg and had grace written all over it. The introduction of the experienced Chahal brought the run rate down as both Gaikwad and Mhatre took the cautious route.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

PBKS batters after crossing the victory line on Friday | ASHWIN PRASATH

DOUBLE DELIGHT

While Delhi Capitals play their first home game against Mumbai Indians, Gujarat Titans will face Rajasthan Royals in the season's first double-header on Saturday. A look..

Fragile DC top-order

All eyes will be on Delhi Capitals' top-order when they face a Mumbai Indians side high on confidence. Chasing a modest 142 against LSG, the Capitals' top-order of KL Rahul, Nitish Rana and Pathum Nissanka failed to contribute. The vulnerability at the top is a concern against a Mumbai bowling attack led by Jasprit Bumrah.

Surya as impact-sub?

MI will enter the contest brimming with confidence after winning their opening match for the first time since 2012. One thing that needs to be looked at is Suryakumar Yadav's fitness. In the previous match, he came in as an impact sub, due to a minor groin concern.

GT's Bowling troika vs RR's Boy wonder

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi will once again try to meet fire with fire but there will be three international bowlers of repute in Kagiso Rabada, Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna. On the batting front, the track at the New Motera is expected to be a paradise where one can hit through the line.

Can Royals continue good run?

As far as visitors RR are concerned, the team looks pretty good on paper but question marks remain on the selection of Riyan Parag as captain of the side overlooking India stars like Ravindra Jadeja, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel. How the batting fares on pressure days will determine how the Royals will be doing this season.

From 3.30 PM | Star Sports and JioHotstar

Hit wicket behind big total

Chennai batters, picked for Chepauk's batting-friendly track, show promise against Punjab

GOMESH S @ Chennai

ON the second ball of the final over during the Chennai Super Kings innings against Punjab Kings, Shivam Dube muscled Arshdeep Singh to the leg side boundary for a four. In the context of the match, it was a much needed four after the slow down.

Zoom out a little, and the scoreboard read 201/5 with the 31,000-strong crowd on their feet cheering on the Super Kings at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. The crowd had understood their assignment. But more importantly, they had waited almost two years to see Chennai post a 200-plus total. To be precise, 705 days.

The last time CSK posted a 200-plus total at their home venue, a fortress once upon a time, was on April 28, 2024 against Sunrisers Hyderabad. In the time since, they spent heavily on pairing Noor Ahmad, R Ashwin with Ravindra Jadeja only for Chepauk to become a batting paradise. The yellow team had shelled out ₹37.75 crores for the three spinners and it cost them dearly. A horror 2025 followed as the five-time champions — known for dominating on spinning tracks of Chepauk — finished at the bottom of the table.

One of the reasons for their struggles, according to the team management, was not having any home advantage for the team they had put together in Chennai. Super Kings continued to build a spin-heavy line-up but pitches remained batting friendly after relaying of the surfaces post the 2019 season. In the three years that followed, Super Kings did not play at Chepauk. Though they sealed the title in 2023, CSK won only four out of seven at home. In 2024, they won five in Chennai and it went down to just one game (out of six) last year.

The displeasure only grew as head coach Stephen Fleming came out and said they have no advantage at Chepauk. "Well, as we've been telling you for a number of years, there was no home advantage at Chepauk," Fleming had said. "We've won away from home a couple of times. And we haven't been able to read... we've been really honest with you. We haven't been able to read the wickets here in the last couple of years. So, it's not new. We are trying to come to grips each day with what we get, and we don't know," he added.

They had made some moves midway signing Ayush Mhatre and Dewald Brevis as injury replacements. Come the mini auction, they had no choice but to hit the reset button. Ashwin was let go. Jadeja was traded off, along with Sam Curran, to bring in Sanju Samson. With the freed up purse, CSK went big on two uncapped explosive domestic batters — Prashant Veer and Kartik Sharma. Both the players went for ₹14.2 crore each as Fleming acknowledged the need to revamp and change the batting line-up to post big totals. Sarfaraz Khan came as a last minute signing at ₹75 lakh and Chennai had their order sorted to complement skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad at the top and Shivam Dube in the middle.

Brevis' injury came as a blow ahead of the 2026 season and CSK struggled on a seaming pitch in Guwahati. But come Friday, Chennai finally got to play the line-up they assembled for flatter Chennai pitches. It was the same surface that saw India post 256/4 against Zimbabwe during the T20 World Cup. Such a total is what was needed on this pitch, especially with the dew kicking in, but Chennai had to take the first steps.

Samson fell early, Gaikwad did not have momentum, but the newcomers showed why CSK needed them. Mhatre, already becoming a crowd favourite in Chennai, smashed 73 off 43 balls. Veer and Sharma could not kick on, but Sarfaraz lit up the stage in front of his father. The Mumbaikar, who looks leaner, meaner and stronger, used his wide range of shots to hit 32 off just 12 balls, setting it up for Dube (45 n.o off 27) to go big at the end.

Friday showed glimpses of what this batting line-up could do when they get going. And as Gaikwad said on the eve of the match, they could get better as the tournament progresses.

Chennai Super Kings' Ayush Mhatre (R) celebrates after reaching his half-century on Friday | ASHWIN PRASATH

NUMBERS GAME

209/5

CSK scored more than 200 at Chepauk for the first time since April 28, 2024 (212/3 vs SRH)

172.3

Cumulative strike rate of Ayush Mhatre, Sarfaraz Khan, Prashant Veer and Kartik Sharma on Friday (three of them new to CSK, Mhatre came as injury replacement last season)

Nikhat wins to set up re-match vs Oly champ

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

TAKING part in her first international bout of the season, decorated boxer Nikhat Zareen barely broke a sweat as she put up a dominant victory over Xian Baguhin of Philippines in the ongoing Asian Championships at the the ASA Arena in Sukhbaatar District, Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia).

The two-time World Championships gold winner, who had received a bye in the first round, was aggressive from the get go and wrapped up the contest in quick time as the referee was forced to stop the contest (win by RSC) towards the closing stages of the Round 1 on Friday.

With this victory, the 51kg pugilist booked a spot in the semis, thereby assuring herself at least a bronze medal. This is her second medal in the continental meet — she had captured bronze in the 2019 edition.

This is an ideal start but Nikhat, the No 1 seed, will now face a massive challenge as she'll be up against Wu Yu of China, who had beaten the Indian (Round of 16) during her gold medal run during the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Nikhat Zareen celebrates her victory on Friday| ASIAN BOXING

Wu, who's unseeded in the meet, edged Uzbekistan's Gulsevar Ganieva by split verdict (4-1) to set up a re-match with the Indian.

It goes without saying it's a high-stake battle for Nikhat, who can secure a place in the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games squad if she can win her next fight.

Meanwhile, Priya (60 kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg) also produced contrasting wins to assure themselves at least a bronze medal.

In the men's section, Deepak (70kg) suffered a setback as he lost 1-4 against Jordan's Zeyad Eashash in the quarterfinals.

EXPRESS READ

Klaasen rules out international comeback

NEW DELHI: South Africa's swashbuckling batter Heinrich Klaasen has officially ruled out an international comeback, confirming his retirement to prioritise family time after toying with the idea for a brief period. Klaasen, 34, had retired from all forms of international cricket last June, following his omission from South Africa's central contracts, stepping aside to focus on playing in T20 leagues.

Alisson to miss CL games against PSG

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool won't have first-choice goalkeeper Alisson Becker back anytime soon. The Brazil international's unspecified injury will keep him out of Saturday's FA Cup quarterfinal at Manchester City as well as the two-leg Champions League quarterfinal against PSG, coach Arne Slot said Friday. "He will not be part of the Paris Saint-Germain games as well. He will be out for a bit longer (...)" Slot said.

Bogey free Kochhar lies Tied-2 in Japan

CHIBA: India's Karandeep Kochhar fired a flawless 6-under 65 in the second round to propel himself to Tied-2 position at the halfway stage at International Series Japan at the Caledonian Golf Club here Friday. Kochhar's second successive bogey-free round, punctuated with six birdies meant that he jumped 7 places from his overnight Tied-9th at the USD 2 million event, and just one shot behind leader Hongtaek Kim of Korea.

India top AIU's list of ineligible athletes

CEHNNAI: Athletes from India have topped the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) charts which was released this month. The latest Global List of Ineligible persons includes former 100m national record holder Dutee Chand, promising sprinter Dhanalakshmi Sekar and middle-distance runner Parvej Khan. India's count of 148 surpassed Kenya (146) in the doping charts. **Full story by Indraneel Das, visit newindianexpress.com**

Advani stuns reigning champion Shivam

LUDHIANA: Ace cueist Pankaj Advani powered into the semifinals of the 10-ball national championships, stunning reigning champion Shivam Arora here. Advani carried far too many guns for Arora in the quarterfinals, reflected in his 8-2 victory and it set up a last-four showdown with fellow PSPB cueist Shahbaaz Adil Khan. The latter prevailed by a similar margin over Punjab's Sumesh Jhangra.

CANDIDATES

Sindarov takes giant step towards challenging for world title

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

BARRING a mini collapse in the next nine rounds of the Candidates, Javokhir Sindarov will be the challenger to D Gukesh's throne later this year. The Uzbek phenom, who served notice of his vast talents when he won the World Cup in India last year, demolished Hikaru Nakamura to win his fourth game in the first five rounds.

Already on 4.5 points, the 20-year-old knows he can get over the line as long as he plays solid, unspectacular chess over the next nine rounds. Generally considered as a tougher tournament to win than the actual World Championships, nine out of 14 has always been good enough to win the tournament since the event went to a double round-robin. Taking that as the benchmark, he only needs 4.5 more points out of the remaining nine rounds to reach that magic number.

Fabiano Caruana, second in the leaderboard after handing Matthias Bluebaum his first defeat, R Praggnanandhaa and Nakamura were considered three of the likelier winners of the tournament in Cyprus when it began last week. But the Uzbek youngster has beaten all of them thanks to a combination of unbelievable opening prep and pouncing on every mistake made by his opponents. Caruana may only be one point behind but at this level and even this early, they are seldom overturned.

Hikaru Nakamura reacts during his tie on Friday | FIDE/MICHAL WALUSZA

RESULTS (Rd 5): Women: A Muzychuk drew with A Goryachkina, Z Jiner bt R Vaishali, D Deshmukh drew with T Zhongyi, K Lagno bt B Assaubayeva. **Open:** A Giri drew with W Yi, J Sindarov bt H Nakamura, R Praggnanandhaa drew with A Esipenko, F Caruana bt M Bluebaum.

His prep has allowed him to catch opponents off guard as they have had to spend a lot of time in the opening. That theme continued against Nakamura, the World No. 2. While it's true that the US GM, playing with white on Friday, overextended in the opening to have some winning chances, Sindarov turned the tables instead. A Queen's Gambit Declined opening saw him pick up a knight with not enough compensation. It was still dead level after 12 moves but when the board was on the edge, the 38-year-old spent 67 minutes before a slight mistake sent the eval bar into a frenzy. Both players were pretty much in one move only territory — Nakamura to not lose and Sindarov to preserve the winning advantage — but it was the latter who found the moves.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Climate-vulnerable nations outpace US in SOLAR UPTAKE amid fossil fuel shocks

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

AS geopolitical tensions triggered by US-Israel strikes on Iran send global oil prices surging, the world's most climate-vulnerable economies are facing yet another fossil fuel shock. But even as their import bills swell, a new analysis shows that many of these countries are already quietly leapfrogging richer nations in the shift to clean energy.

A report released earlier this week by global energy think tank Ember, in partnership with the Climate Vulnerable Forum and V20 (CVF-V20), finds that 46% of climate-vulnerable countries have already surpassed the United States in solar power penetration, measured against electricity demand. More than half have also overtaken the US in economy-wide electrification, signalling a structural shift in global energy adoption patterns.

The CVF-V20 bloc, comprising 74 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and small island states, represents 1.7 billion people, over one-fifth of the global population but less than 5% of global GDP and electricity demand. Yet, these nations are increasingly emerging as frontrunners in de-centralised solar adoption and electric technologies.

Countries such as Namibia (35%) and Togo (18%) lead in solar generation share, while Nepal (70%) and Sri Lanka (64%) have among the highest electric vehicle adoption rates. Battery uptake is also rising sharply in countries like Jordan and Kyrgyzstan - report

The report highlights that the clean energy transition in these economies is significantly undercounted. In eight out of ten CVF countries, solar panel imports since 2017 are at least three times higher than officially recorded installed capacity, indicating a rapid expansion of decentralised rooftop and off-grid systems.

This trend is visible across sectors. Countries such as Namibia (35%) and Togo (18%) lead in solar generation share, while Nepal (70%) and Sri Lanka (64%) have among the highest electric vehicle adoption rates. Battery uptake is also rising sharply in countries like Jordan and Kyrgyzstan.

The shift is being driven by a dramatic fall in technology costs. Prices of solar panels, batteries and electric end-use technologies have declined by 30% to 95% over the past decade, fundamentally altering the economics of energy in developing markets. "Solar is now cheaper to build than fossil power, and off-grid systems can outperform grid expansion in remote areas," the report notes, adding that decentralised systems are proving especially effective in regions where extending traditional grid infrastructure is costly or unviable.

Despite this progress, fossil fuel dependence continues to impose severe macroeconomic strain. CVF-V20 countries collectively spent $155 billion on net fossil fuel imports in 2024, draining public finances and foreign exchange reserves. In at least 19 countries, fossil imports account for over half of the trade deficit, including 79% in Morocco, 67% in Pakistan, and 59% in Bangladesh. The current geopolitical crisis threatens to exacerbate this vulnerability. If oil prices average $100 per barrel through 2026, the group's import bill could rise by more than $30 billion.

The exposure is particularly telling given that around 500 million people in these countries still lack access to electricity, while another 500 million face unreliable supply. For many, this means continued reliance on biomass, which is both inefficient and linked to serious health risks. What makes the current transition notable is that clean energy is no longer a costlier alternative. A decade ago, solar projects could require up to five times more upfront investment than fossil fuel plants. Today, that equation has reversed. The report shows that solar power is now competitive with fossil fuels on upfront capital costs, while also eliminating ongoing fuel expenses. Financing costs for solar have also fallen below those for fossil fuels in several emerging markets, including Morocco and Vietnam.

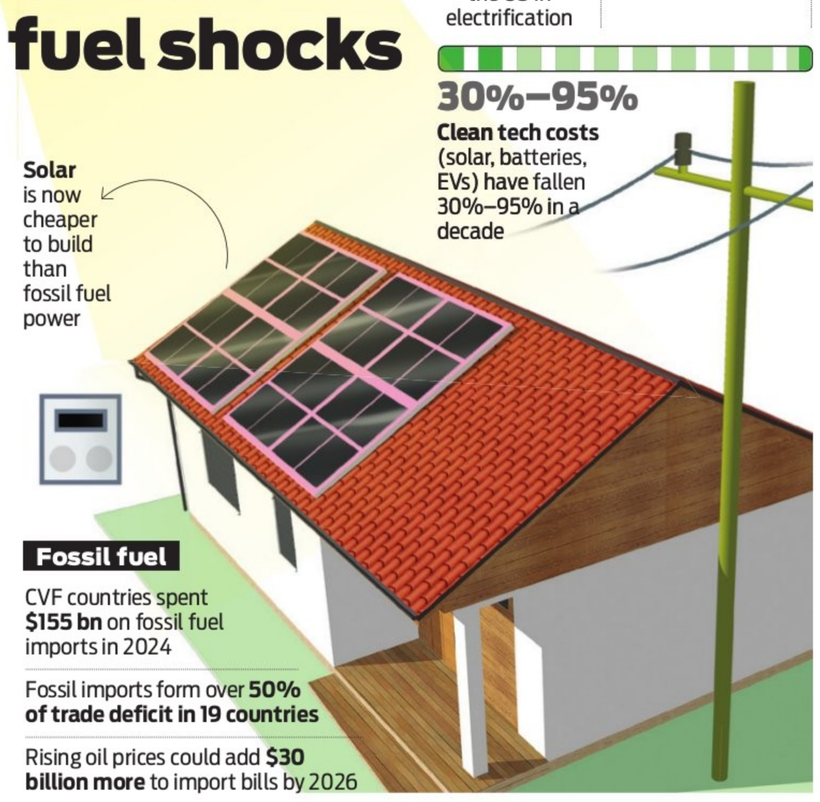
At the same time, falling battery prices are solving the "last-mile" problem. As noted in the report's analysis, solar-plus-storage systems are now cheaper than grid extension for communities located even a few dozen kilometres from existing networks. The implications go beyond energy. Expanding electrification can unlock productivity gains across sectors from healthcare and education to manufacturing, while reducing exposure to volatile global fuel markets. Importantly, many of these countries have not yet locked into large-scale fossil infrastructure. This leaves open what the report describes as an "electric fast-track", a development pathway that bypasses decades of fossil fuel dependence.

46%
Of climate-vulnerable countries have surpassed the US in solar penetration

Over half of these nations are ahead of the US in electrification

8/10
countries, solar imports are 3x higher than installed capacity

74 nations
The CVF-V20 bloc spans 74 countries and 1.7 billion people


30%–95%
Clean tech costs (solar, batteries, EVs) have fallen 30%–95% in a decade
Solar is now cheaper to build than fossil fuel power
Fossil fuel
CVF countries spent $155 bn on fossil fuel imports in 2024
Fossil imports form over 50% of trade deficit in 19 countries
Rising oil prices could add $30 billion more to import bills by 2026

PLAYING ON BORROWED TIME

SPORT IN THE AGE OF ECOLOGICAL LIMITS

SPORT is often celebrated as a unifying force, a shared language that transcends borders and identities, and many times politics too. But when examined through an environmental lens, sport reveals a far more complicated story. This contradiction is effectively exposed in a game like golf -- cloaked in the imagery of nature, tranquility, and green landscapes, yet deeply entangled with ecological stress.

More than 38,000 golf courses, globally, are visual symbols of environmental harmony: rolling lawns, ornamental water bodies and meticulously maintained fairways. But a single 18-hole course can consume millions of litres of water annually, often in regions already experiencing water scarcity. Across parts of Asia, Africa, and the western United States, golf courses remain lush even as neighbouring communities ration drinking water or depend on tanker supplies. Golf is not an environmental anomaly. It is a window into a much larger truth about modern sport: elite leisure activities are routinely insulated from ecological limits. But the environmental footprint of sport extends far beyond golf courses.

Balakrishna Pisupati

Flavia Lopes

Mega-sporting events, from international football tournaments to global athletics meetings, reshape cities and landscapes at scale. Stadium construction consumes enormous quantities of steel, concrete and land. Waste generation, from food packaging and single-use plastics to promotional merchandise soars, leaving host cities to manage the aftermath long after. Sports facilities demand water-intensive maintenance for pitches, cooling systems, sanitation and hospitality.

In response, the sports world has begun to speak the language of sustainability. Carbon-neutral tournaments, plastic-free pledges, and biodiversity commitments are now common in official communications. Initiatives such as the United Nations Environment Programme's Sports for Nature framework attempt to move beyond rhetoric.

The initiative calls on sports organisations to set a baseline for their impacts, align with the mitigation and conservation hierarchy (avoid, reduce, restore, renew), work with environmental partners and use their platforms to educate and advocate for nature. It recognises that sport is not merely a cultural spectacle but a land- and resource-intensive sector with material ecological consequences. This shift is important. For the first time, sport is being framed as an actor within the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. By encouraging federations, clubs and event organisers to assess dependencies on ecosystems, identify priority species and habitats and redesign infrastructure with biodiversity in mind, Sport for Nature introduces a structural lens into a field long dominated by carbon accounting alone.

Because of its visibility and influence, sport has the capacity to reshape norms at scale. Stadiums and sports facilities can become models of water-positive design, renewable energy use, and zero-waste systems. Sporting calendars can adapt to heat stress rather than pushing athletes and ecosystems beyond safe limits. Governing bodies can tie hosting rights and sponsorships to measurable environmental and social outcomes, rather than voluntary pledges. Most importantly, sport can help challenge the idea that spectacle justifies excess.

In a climate-constrained world, sustainability cannot mean preserving existing models with minor efficiencies at the margins. It must mean rethinking how sport uses land, water, energy and materials and who bears the costs of that use.

As climate impacts intensify, the question is no longer whether sport should engage with environmental responsibility, but how honestly it is willing to confront its own contradictions. Golf, with its pristine fairways and hidden footprints, merely brings those contradictions into sharper focus.

(Balakrishna Pisupati is Head of UNEP India Office and Flavia Lopes the Programme Officer. Views are personal.)

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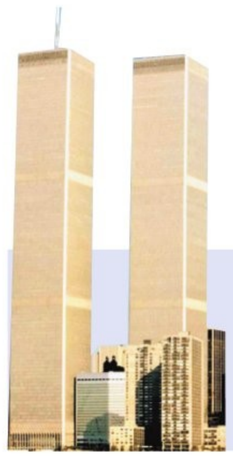


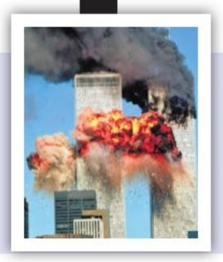
DAY'S DIARY

Dedication of Twin Towers

The $700 million World Trade Centre, its two 1,350-ft towers the largest buildings in the world, was dedicated formally by Governors Rockefeller and Cahill on this day in 1973.

DESIGN

The towers rose 100 ft higher than the Empire State Building. A computer fed by 6,500 sensors regulated heat and AC, shutting them down on weekends.



ATTACKS ON TWIN TOWER

On Feb 26, 1993, a large bomb planted by terrorists exploded in the underground garage of WTC-2. The attack that occurred on Sept 11, 2001 was much more destructive.

REBUILDING PROCESS

Daniel Libeskind's plan combined a glass tower, designed to be the tallest in the world, with open memorial gardens that represent the 'footprints' of the two fallen towers.

Easter cheers this weekend!

PG 2

With just a day to go for the much-awaited clash between RCB and CSK, fans are weaving plans to flaunt their jerseys in style, celebrating team spirit and match-day flair

MATCH THE FOLLOWING

Content creator Veekshitha Gowda gives a desi touch to her jersey, pairing it with minimal jewellery and sneakers

SRUTHI HEMACHANDRAN, ANJALI RAM

With the Chinnaswamy Stadium set for the high-energy battle between RCB and CSK on Sunday, fans are plotting how to turn their jerseys into match-day style statements. Think oversized silhouettes with tucked waists, sarees, fusion skirts with delicate jewellery or denim combos that walk the line between sporty and chic. Whether you're heading to the stadium or watching live from home, styling it the right way can elevate your match-day experience.

Content creator Yashashvi B's jersey paired with a pleated skirt gives off a fresh vibe

Wearing a jersey is a statement of belonging and celebs like Sydney Sweeney and Kareena Kapoor Khan have been spotted styling theirs effortlessly, proving that sportswear can double as a full-on fashion moment. "Much like the IPL has become a cultural phenomenon, jerseys signal mood and regional pride. Relaxed fits lend themselves perfectly to oversized gender-fluid silhouettes dominating street wear. Breathable and sweat-friendly fabrics make them ideal for the city's now warm weather," says Archita Shenoy, a fashion-lifestyle content creator.

Half-tuck is her go-to trick. "It turns an oversized, casual piece into something sharp. Pair it with a statement bottom and the look feels cursed without much effort. Adding a knot can turn a jersey into a chic crop top which works best with high-waist pants or lehenga skirts, giving the outfit a fresh vibe," says Archita.

Vrushab Prakash, an IT analyst and RCB fan, explains how the jersey connects him to the city and its energy. "When I put on that jersey, I'm representing the energy and the unwavering 'Ee Sala Cup Nammde' hope of the city," he effuses. For him, customisation is what makes the jersey feel truly personal. "I tailor mine with my lucky number and name."

Content creator Sneha Shenoy focuses on style, proving that small choices can make a huge difference. Biggest mistakes, Sneha warns, are overcomplicating the outfit or hiding the jersey under layers. "Wearing a jacket over the jersey? For the love of the game, don't do that! Jersey deserves to be seen. Layering it just defeats the purpose," she says, sharing her mantra: keep it sharp and comfortable.

Even if customisation is not an option, pins and badges or subtle tucks can make it feel personal while letting bold reds and gold shine. Fashion content creator Avanthika Babu approaches jerseys with a focus on versatility and chic styling. She experiments with casual streetwear and fusion combinations to make her match-day fit stand out. "Wide-legged or baggy jeans instantly lift the look and give it a relaxed, street-style edge. Slightly tuck the jersey in at the waist or lean fully into the oversized aesthetics," she suggests.

Sneha adds that comfort is just as important as style, especially during a four-hour match. Revealing her little ritual, she shares that she customises her jersey with her name and number. "It costs a bit, but it never feel like wasted money. When it comes to RCB, it's more like investing in an experience. I even got one customised for my three-month-old niece for her naming ceremony," she shares.

Babu also shares a tip for blending sporty and traditional elements seamlessly. Pairing a jersey with a white skirt, delicate Indo-western jewellery or a waist chain, she says, can create a unique look perfect for match days. From dramatic reveals under rival jerseys to pairing them with skirts, denim or sequinned pieces, accessories such as bold jewellery, statement belts and playful footwear help fans put together outfits that feel intentional.

Sneha Shenoy

Avanthika Babu

Try these three signature looks:

1. For the vintage cool girl look, feature an oversized jersey, a pair of straight leg faded jeans with chunky sneakers, a mini shoulder bag, which goes well with a messy bun or a claw clip

2. For a clean summer look, include a fitted jersey tucked into white denims, paired with tan sandals. Accessorise with gold hoops to go with light makeup.

3. Go for that street-style edge look with a jersey over a white tee and a pair of baggy ripped jeans. Complete the look with a cap and sneakers.

SENGAVI THIRUPATHY
decarbonization analyst

My memory is of coming back from school with my elder sister – who was five years older – and watching the show. The styling in the show was an inspiration for us. I remember how my sister would wear jeans, tank tops, and a sweater vest. She even had those skater gloves that the character Lily wore in the show. It was all very fascinating. Growing up with the show, Miley Stewart's character was my favourite. She was down to earth and felt like a real person – especially with her brunette hair and bunny teeth. She had fights with her girlfriends, there was school drama which was relatable for me too as I went on to class eight. Overall, it was a very relatable show except with a rockstar spin. As I am talking about it now, it makes me want to go back and watch the show again.

● **Favourite song —** *The Best of Both Worlds* (I can sing it in my sleep)

THEMIS VENESSA costume designer/stylist

I used to sing a little too well as a child, and music was a big part of my childhood dreams. Watching *Hannah Montana* from the age of 12 fuelled my dreams of wanting to pursue music later on in life. I didn't follow through, my dreams changed, but it still holds a special place in my heart because it let the little girl in me dream big. I also felt like Hannah Montana was company. A friend. A way of being seen and also a role model to look up to. As a high schooler, I was made fun of for performing songs of Miley Cyrus and Taylor Swift, too. Their careers had just started and they weren't 'cool' back in the day. The *Hannah Montana* anniversary has given me comfort in enjoying the music I wanted to and also closure in knowing that I wasn't alone in enjoying her music from that time and age.

● **Favourite song —** *Butterfly Fly Away*

SHAKEENAA ABDUL GAFOOR
advocate

It is a show that makes one understand the importance of family, love, and friendship. Every character would keep each other's secrets and never give up on one another. The extent to which Miley's friends and family are willing to go to protect her secret is beautiful while also being entertaining. My favourite memories include my school best friend and I pretending to be Miley and Lily. I used to make scrap books like Miley would in the show and collect her photos, stickers, and merchandise. The Hannah closet was a dream for me. If I ever build a house, I will build a Hannah closet for myself. Watching the *Hanniversary* episode took me to some core memories that I am failing to describe through words.

● **Favourite songs —** *The Best of Both Worlds*, *I Miss You*, *I Will Always Remember You*, and *The Climb*

An entire generation grew up believing in a double life, and are now looking back at the show that made it all seem possible on its 20th anniversary

The shared climb

NIDHARSHANA RAJU

A blonde wig and bangs turned an ordinary schoolgirl *Hannah Montana* into a global pop star. For many then school-going kids from the Global South, it suggested that fame could exist alongside everyday life. It also opened a window to the western culture as it carried American teen life into Indian homes. Fashion, slang, and sound travelled with it. Phrases like 'say what?' and 'sweet niblets' slipped into casual speech. Music too, anchored this exchange. Songs like *The Best of Both Worlds* blended pop with narrative and they made the dual identity feel coherent. Hannah Montana merchandise and imagery too slipped into our pencil boxes and school bags.

Now, two decades on, Miley Cyrus returns to that image with ease. The blonde hair, the bangs, the memory of a role that shaped a generation. Her early fans are now working in corporate and creative fields, or are busy with their personal lives. They no longer believe in becoming a secret popstar. Yet the nostalgia remains because the show followed by the movie stand as a shared archive of desire. It reminds them of a time when possibilities felt endless. So, they share a piece of their child/teenhood.

RAGAVI M
video producer

As a seven-year-old girl, I was naturally drawn to *Hannah Montana*. The glam, the outfits, and the whole secret popstar and double life energy was all so exciting. I used to pretend to be Hannah, I collected her stickers, and even had a Hannah Montana school bag. But as I grew older, I found myself drawn to Miley Stewart's character more. She had to handle so much responsibility, keep her identity a secret, stay grounded, and make real sacrifices. Over time, I realised that Miley was more real and relatable, and that is what makes me appreciate the show more. As cliché as it may sound, the show taught me a lot about dreams, passion, friendships, and family. It made me believe that when things get messy, they will eventually work out. The *Hanniversary* episode was honestly a little underwhelming. The core cast was missing. I just wish it had focused more on bringing the cast together and letting them talk about the show we all grew up with.

● **Favourite songs —** *The Best of Both worlds*, *This Is The Life*, and *The Climb*

Hot Spot

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO GETAWAYS AROUND THE CITY

BHEEMANA KINDI

PHOTO CREDIT: MISHA BANIYA

DISTANCE FROM B'LURU : Approx. 85km

GETTING THERE: By private or rented vehicle, trekking communities offer morning pickups.

TIMINGS: 6am to 5pm

ENTRY FEE: Nil

BEST TIME TO VISIT: All Year

HIGHLIGHT

Bheemana Kindi is a lesser-known trek that features the Basaveshwara temple at the hill top. The location is surrounded by a breathtaking and massive rock arch.

CITY READ

City college to host short film festival on April 8, 9

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) will host the JAIN University Short Film Festival on April 8 and 9 at Suchitra Cinema and Cultural Academy, Banashankari. Titled 'Short Frames, Lasting Stories', the festival will showcase bold narratives and innovative filmmaking across student and professional categories. Screenings will be judged by industry experts, with winners and runners-up recognised in each segment. The event will feature guests including actor Naveen Shankar and jury members, including producer-director Naveen Dwarakanath, editor Sri Crazy Mindz and others. For details and RSVP, contact 78921 55436, 99864 49445 or 95350 77893.

FOCUS FEATURE AN SMD INITIATIVE

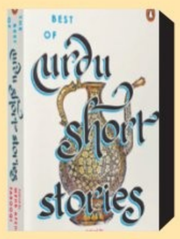
Geri Care opens its New Skilled Nursing Facility for Senior Citizens in Sarjapur

Geri Care, India's leading integrated geriatric healthcare provider, today announced the inauguration of its **newest Skilled Nursing Facility & Clinic for Senior Citizens in Sarjapur,** Bengaluru.This marks Geri Care's 12th facility in India and its second centre in Bengaluru, following its Ulsoor facility.

Dr.Lakshmipathy Ramesh, Founder & Managing Director, Geri Care, added,"Bengaluru has rapidly emerged as a city with a large and growing senior population, both long-time residents and elders of migrant families. With Sarjapur, we are deepening our commitment to the city by bringing a geriatrician-led, continuum-of-care model closer to where families live today. Our goal is to address the missing middle in eldercare, between hospital and home—through integrated, clinically anchored care that supports seniors across every stage of ageing."

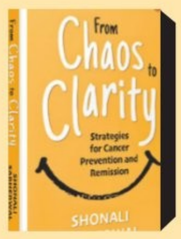
Located at Haralur Main Road, Sarjapur, the **120+ bed centre** brings Geri Care's **geriatrician-led, multidisciplinary model** to one of Bengaluru's fastest-growing residential corridors. The facility integrates a Skilled Nursing Facility with a Senior Citizens Clinic that serves as the central access point, offering consultations with geriatricians and visiting specialists, routine check-ups, adult vaccinations, and chronic disease management.

BOOK NOOK



The Best of Urdu Short Stories
edited by Mehr Afshan Farooqui

In this rigorously curated and distinctive anthology, we bring to lovers of Urdu literature, the best of writers such as Premchand, Ismat Chughtai, Manto, Rajinder Singh Bedi, Intizar Husain, Hajra Masroor, Khalid Jawed and Ali Akbar Natiq.



From Chaos to Clarity
by Shonali Sabherwal

Nutritionist Shonali Sabherwal provides a beacon of hope for those affected by cancer. This essential guide offers a wealth of knowledge to help you and your loved ones navigate this challenging journey.

My Dead Flowers
by Buku Sarkar

The poems in *My Dead Flowers* are rivers; they meander, change course, are a swirl of eddies and back-eddies, and sing of love. They snake through the streets of Paris, New York City, Calcutta.

Super: A Novel
by Lindsay Pereira

Tender and heartfelt, this novel is an unforgettable exploration of immigration, identity, and the intense yearning for a better life – along with the often-devastating cost that comes with it.

ART OUT OF THE BOX

Visitors engage in conversation at Her Canvas, an exhibition celebrating women and their art, held at the Rangoli Metro Art Center, MG Road | KEVIN NASHON

QUICKFIX

SARDINE BALLS

INGREDIENTS

- **Sardine fillets:** 200 g
- **Egg white:** 1
- **Carrot:** Half, small, finely chopped
- **Ground pepper:** 1 tsp
- **Spring onion:** 1, finely chopped
- **Soy sauce:** 1 tsp
- **Potato/corn starch:** 1 tbsp

METHOD

- Chop up sardine fillets into coarse paste. Add other ingredients and mix to combine evenly.
- Heat enough oil, drop heaped-tablespoonfuls of the sardine mixture and fry crisp until nicely browned.
- Serve the fish balls with soy/tomato sauce.

Contributed by **Priyal Gill,** Delhi

NOWSTREAMING

REGIONAL

HAPPY PATEL: KHATARNAK JASOOS (Hindi)

After learning he was born in India, a clumsy but ambitious British spy embarks on a mission to Goa and stumbles into a dangerous criminal rivalry.

Cast: Vir Das, Mithila Palkar, Mona Singh, Sharib Hashmi, Srushti Tawade

- **Watch on:** Netflix

SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR (Hindi)

A basketball coach serves community service by training Neurodivergent adults after a DUI. His outlook changes as he learns from his players.

Cast: Aamir Khan, Simran Mangeshkar, Genelia, Rishi Shahani

- **Watch on:** SonyLIV

FOREIGN

XO, KITTY (English, series)

With senior year around the corner, Kitty has her work cut out for her this season. While she has to manoeuvre past her senior year and finally decide which college she plans to apply to, she also has to label her growing feelings for Minho.

Cast: Anna Cathcart, Sang Heon Lee, Choi Min Young, Gia Kim

- **Watch on:** Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION

Netflix:	₹ 199/month
Prime Video:	₹ 299/month
Jio Cinema:	₹ 999/year
Disney+ Hotstar:	₹ 899/year
Zee5:	₹ 699/year
Viki Rakuten:	₹ 299/month
Aha:	₹ 699/year
SonyLIV:	₹ 299/month

FITBIT

WHY WATER MATTERS MORE THAN YOU THINK IN MUSCLE BUILDING

When people think about building muscle, they focus on protein, workouts, and supplements. But one basic factor often gets ignored — water. Hydration plays a key role in how your muscles grow, recover, and perform.

HOW WATER SUPPORTS YOUR MUSCLES:

- Your muscles are made up of a large amount of water. When you stay hydrated, your muscles function better. They feel stronger, look fuller and recover faster after workouts.
- Water also helps maintain muscle cell volume, which is important for growth. Without enough water, your muscles may feel weak and tired.

HELPS DELIVER NUTRIENTS:

- Water acts as a transport system in your body. It carries nutrients like amino acids, vitamins, and minerals to your muscles. These nutrients are essential for muscle repair and growth.
- If you are dehydrated, this process slows down and your muscles do not get what they need.

SUPPORTS RECOVERY AND REDUCES SORENESS:

- After a workout, your body needs to recover. Staying hydrated helps remove waste products like lactic acid, which can reduce muscle soreness.
- It also lowers the chances of cramps and muscle fatigue, helping you perform better in your next session.

IMPROVES STRENGTH AND PERFORMANCE:

- Even slight dehydration can affect your performance. You may feel tired faster, lift less weight, and struggle with endurance.
- Proper hydration keeps your energy levels steady and helps you get the most out of your workout.

AIDS PROTEIN USE AND MUSCLE GROWTH:

- You may consume enough protein, but without water, your body cannot absorb and use it properly. Hydration supports protein digestion and muscle repair.
- In contrast, dehydration can slow down muscle growth and recovery.

SUPPORTS METABOLISM AND JOINT HEALTH:

- Water helps your body burn calories more efficiently and supports fat loss. It also keeps your joints lubricated, which reduces the risk of injury during exercise.
- Building muscle is not just about training hard. It is also about supporting your body with the basics.

Drinking enough water every day helps improve performance, recovery, and muscle growth. It is a simple habit, but it makes a real difference.

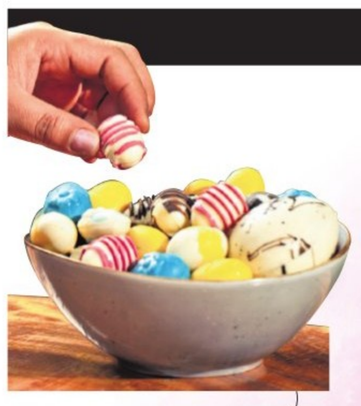
By Madhura P Behki, nutrition expert, cult – a fitness and wellness platform

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE



Poolside Feast

Soak in a sunlit Easter brunch by the pool with a hearty spread featuring devilled eggs, scalloped potatoes, roast leg of lamb, honey-glazed ham, slow-cooked pot roast and glazed carrots, followed by lemon cheesecake and pumpkin pie for a comforting, indulgent finish.

WHEN: April 5, 12.30pm onwards
WHERE: By the Blue at The Grand Mercure, Koramangala **CALL:** 90083 00446

Egg-citing Treats

Gather your loved ones for a cheerful Easter afternoon with fresh florals, soft jazz and acoustic music. The brunch brings together deviled eggs, smoked salmon crostini, honey-glazed ham, roasted lamb, and spring vegetable quiche, followed by hot cross buns, carrot cake and easter egg chocolate nets. With a lively, dedicated kids' corner and Easter egg hunt adding to the fun.

WHEN: April 5, 12.30pm onwards
WHERE: JW Kitchen at JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru, Vittal Mallya Road
CALL: 88844 94037

Hunt & Build

Bring your friends and family for a joyful Easter brunch with live music, shared tables and a kids' Easter egg hunt. The menu includes guacamole quail egg tart, Easter rainbow carrot salad with Tahini, roasted turkey, deviled eggs with bacon and Norwegian salmon, along with desserts like Ganache and a build-your-own cannoli counter inspired by a European tradition. **WHEN:** April 5, 12.30pm onwards
WHERE: The Market at The Ritz-Carlton, Residency Road **CALL:** 90354 16155

Bunny Brunch

Relish the festive time with executive Sous Chef Suni Rai's curated brunch featuring chilled cucumber-mint shooters, kale quinoa almond salad, barley risotto with peas and mint, grilled chicken with sumac yogurt marinade, multigrain sourdough and seasonal fruit pavlova with Greek yoghurt. Alcohol-inclusive options, blending spring flavours with indulgent bites.

WHEN: April 5, 12.30pm onwards
WHERE: Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway, Rajajinagar
CALL: 95919 96953

Cheerful Bites

Dive into a feel-good Easter Spring-inspired brunch full of flavour and cheer. Enjoy Kung Pao Chicken, ricotta gnocchi, grilled polenta, and fresh salad, followed by carrot millet Easter eggs, citrus gateaux, and choux buns, while kids delight in caricature art, balloon modelling, and a joyful Easter egg hunt.

WHEN: April 5, 1pm onwards
WHERE: Raj Pavilion at ITC Windsor, Sankey Road
CALL: 80760 77025

Easter Eats

Celebrate Easter with a feast that feels like home and festivity on one table where Chef Priya Verghese brings a Syrian Christian spread featuring duck roast, kodumpuli meen curry, egg roast, Nasrani mutton biryani, beef cutlets, vatteappam, and sweet madakusan made for sharing.

WHEN: April 5, 12.30pm onwards
WHERE: Tijouri at Radisson Blu Atria, Vasanth Nagar
CALL: 73386 86086

Heritage on Plate

Step into a realm of cherished memories and timeless flavours, where Chef Tresa Francis unveils a menu inspired by the traditional kitchens of Kerala estates. Indulge in dishes such as duck roast served with vellappam, succulent pork roast, baked fish, tender beef brisket and rich cashew mappas, all artfully blending tradition with subtle global influences.

WHEN: April 5, 10am onwards
WHERE: Coracle at Bangalore International Cafe, Indiranagar **CALL:** 96116 52064

ARTCORNER

KACHNI ON CANVAS

In this Madhubani painting, artist Rekha V from Kozhikode, Kerala, represents two horses and the intricate carvings and designs on them

NUTRIWISE

Sadhvika Srinivas

(The writer is the director and chief nutritionist at LivStack Health and Performance, Chennai)

PREPARE TO RECEIVE THESE POWERFUL SIGNALS

OVER the last few years, and especially throughout 2025, conversations around health have expanded beyond calories, macros, and weight loss. More people are beginning to understand that a healthy body and mind depend on far more than just numbers on a food label. At the centre of this shift is gut health, a concept rooted deeply in science and increasingly recognised as a foundation of overall wellbeing.

Our gut is home to a vast and complex ecosystem known as the gut microbiota. This ecosystem consists of trillions of microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, and fungi, that live primarily in the large intestine. Far from being harmful, most of these microbes are essential for human health. They help protect us from disease-causing pathogens, regulate immune function, influence metabolism, and play a key role in how we absorb and utilise nutrients from food.

When this microbial ecosystem is balanced, it supports digestive health and systemic wellbeing. However, when it is disrupted, a state known as gut dysbiosis, a wide range of health concerns my arise. These include digestive disorders, metabolic diseases, immune dysfunction, cardiovascular conditions, and even neurological and mental health issues. Because of this, modern nutrition and medical research are increasingly focused on microbiome-targeted therapies, such as dietary modification, prebiotics, probiotics, and postbiotics.

One major therapeutic target in gut health research is the restoration of short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs).

Short-chain fatty acids are beneficial compounds produced by gut bacteria during the fermentation of dietary fibre in the large intestine. The three primary SCFAs are acetate, propionate, and butyrate, each playing unique and vital roles in human health.

Butyrate is particularly important for gut integrity. It serves as the main energy source for colon cells and helps maintain the strength and function of the intestinal lining. A healthy gut lining acts as a protective barrier, preventing harmful substances from entering the bloodstream. SCFAs also support colonic cell renewal, a natural process where old or damaged cells undergo controlled cell death and are replaced with new, healthy cells. This constant renewal helps keep the colon resilient and functioning optimally.

The benefits of SCFAs extend far beyond digestion. They play a significant role in immune regulation, and helping in reducing chronic inflammation throughout the body. Elevated SCFA levels are associated with reduced oxidative stress, which limits cellular damage caused by free radicals, a key contributor to metabolic and inflammatory diseases.

Emerging research also highlights the role of SCFAs in brain and nervous system health. Higher SCFA levels have been linked to increased production of neurotrophic factors, proteins that support the growth, survival, and function of brain cells. Additionally, butyrate and propionate have been associated with improved blood pressure regulation, further emphasising their role in cardiovascular health. SCFAs are not produced by the human body on their own, they are created by gut bacteria when we consume dietary fibre. Foods such as whole grains, fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts, and seeds provide the complex fibres that gut microbes ferment to produce these beneficial compounds.

The diversity and quantity of fibre in the diet matter. A varied, colourful, plant-rich diet supports a diverse microbiome, which in turn enhances SCFA production. Factors such as age, stress levels, lifestyle habits, physical activity, and overall gut health also influence how efficiently this process occurs.

While supplementation with SCFAs is still being studied and remains unclear in terms of long-term benefit, the evidence strongly supports a food-first approach. Nourishing the gut through whole, fibre-rich foods remains the most effective and sustainable way to support microbial health.

Short-chain fatty acids are powerful signals created by our gut microbes that influence digestion, immunity, metabolism, brain health, and disease prevention. Rather than focusing solely on calorie tracking, prioritising gut health through diverse, fibre-rich foods allows us to work with our microbiome, not against it.

When we nourish our gut microbes, we strengthen the foundation of long-term health, from the inside out.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Dr. Mamatha Basavaraj Patil,** W/o Ramesh Babu, aged about 63 years, RH D-03. SHIVAGANGA UNIWORTH Tranquil Doddabele Road off Mysore Road, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560060. Hereby declare that, **'Mamatha Basavaraj Patil', 'Mamatha B Patil'** & **'Mamatha Ramesh Babu',** names are one and the same & it refers to me only for all official and legal purposes. Vide Affidavit dated 01.04.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary Shashirekha M Shetty, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MALLIKARJUN RUDRAIAH, S/o. Rudrappa, residing at #111, Sri Dwaraka Nilaya, Swarna Jyothi Layout, Thyavarekoppa, Kote Gangur Post, Shivamogga 577204, Karnataka State, today camping at Bengaluru, have changed my name to **MALLIKARJUNAIAH RUDRAPPA** vide Affidavit Dated: 02/04/2026, sworn before Notary GANGARAJU.B.N, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
We, **SUNIL KUMAR YADAV**, aged about 47 years, and **GEETA YADAV,** residing at No. F-403, Sumadhura Shikharam Apartment, Opposite to Hanuman Temple, Seegehalli, Bangalore, Karnataka-560067, do hereby declare that **KABIR SUNIL YADAV** and **KABIR YADAV**, that the above mentioned names are one the same person our son's name only, and our son's correct name is **KABIR YADAV**, vide affidavit dated 31.03.2026, sworn to before Rajanna .S.M, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SWARADA JOSHI, D/o.Ravikiran J Joshi, Age 20years, Residing at No.A-305, Mantri Alpyne, Uttarahalli Kengeri Main Road, Near Patalamma Temple, BSK 5th Stage, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru-61, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SWARADA RAVIKIRAN JOSHI** TO **SWARADA JOSHI**. vide affidavit dated 28/03/2026 sworn before advocate & Notary N. Sandhya, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Saurabh Singh, father and natural guardian of the minor child mentioned below, residing at G2-308, Chourasia Manor Phase-2, Kaverappa Layout, Kadubisanahalli, Bangalore - 560103, That the mother's name of the minor child is Neelam Singh, we have decided to change the name of our daughter from **Vedika Sirohi** to **Sarvadha Choudhary**, vide affidavit dated 15/3/2026 sworn to before B M Chandrashekar Advocate and Notary Bangalore

AFFIDAVIT
I, **ROHIT BHAT SHREEPATHI**, S/O. Shreepathi Bhat, aged 36 years, residing at Flat No. 6102, Tower 6, Sterling Ascentia, Outer Ring Road, Kariammana Agrahara, Opposite Ecospace, Bellandur, Bengaluru-560103, Karnataka, hereby declare that
ROHIT BHAT SHREEPATHI and BHAT ROHIT SHREEPATHI
Both the names belong to one and the same person i.e., myself only. And continue my name in future as **ROHIT BHAT SHREEPATHI** vide affidavit dated: 03.04.2026 before Advocate and Notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHANKARAPPA M,** R/a Near Shambulingeshwara Temple, No.96, Challaghatta, Yemalur, Bengaluru-560037 have changed my minor son name from **CHARAN BOUDH S** to **CHARAN S** vide affidavit dt.01.04.2026 before Notary **S.I. Balaguru,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Bhanupriya C D/o M.Chandrashekar, Resident of No. 806, 14th Main, 7th Cross Srinivasanagara, BSK 3rd Stage Bangalore-560050 have changed my name from **Banupriya** to **Banupriya C** Vide affidavit No: IN-KA181606-5316009Y dated 26-03-2026 sworn before notary Mamatha N K

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SAJEETH RAVEENDRAN, S/o. K Raveendran Pillai, residing at Flat #TF-319, Sri Sathvik Nandanam, Kaggadasapura, C.V.Raman Nagar Post, Bengaluru 560093, have changed my name to **SAJEETH RAVEENDRAN NAIR** vide Affidavit Dated: 02/04/2026, sworn before Notary GANGARAJU.B.N, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ROOPA .B.R**, aged about 45 years, W/o. Sri Sachin .M. Kumar, residing at No. 313, Kumara Krupa, 6th Main Road, I T I Layout, Mallathahalli, Bengaluru-560056, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ROOPA SACHIN MERAVANIGE** to **ROOPA .B.R,** vide affidavit dated 01.04.2026, sworn to before Aruna .V, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PRITHVIK V ACHAR (PRITHVIK VIKRAM ACHAR),** aged about 17 years, S/o. Vikram Achar, No. 215, 11th B Cross, 14th Main, J.P. Nagar, 2nd Phase, Bengaluru-560078, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **PRITHVIK ACHAR** to **PRITHVIK V ACHAR (PRITHVIK VIKRAM ACHAR),** vide affidavit dated 01.04.2026, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, LAKSHMI BAI W/o Shivarudra Nayak, aged about 54 years, resident of No.344, Andrahalli Main Road, Doddanna Badavane, Vidyamana Nagar, Viswaneedam, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru - 560 091, have changed my name from **HUNAKIBAI** to **LAKSHMI BAI**, vide affidavit dated 2/4/2026 sworn to before H H Nagaraj Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VEENA SUNDER SHETTY, R/o 412, D Block Janhavi Enclave, Kodichikkanahalli, BTM 3rd Stage, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore- 560076 have changed my name to VEENA SHETTY for all purposes affidavit dated 03/04/2026 sworn before advocate and notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MAYUR K,** aged 21 years, Son of Raju. K, residing at #410, Vasthu Lavendar Phase 2, Near Global Village Parking, Mylasandra, RV Niketran P.O., Bangalore South, Bengaluru-560059, Karnataka, India, have changed my name from **MAYURA K** to my new name **MAYUR K** vide Affidavit dated: 02/04/2026 duly sworn to before **Sri. Ramasanjeevaiah. K. V.,** Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) RADHAMANIAMMA,** mother No.JC-312194Y, SUB, ANEESH B, residing at Puthiyaparambil (H), Pizhaku (Post), Ramapuram (Vill), Meenachil (Tehsil), Kottayam (Dist), KERALA (State), PIN: 686651, Have Changed my name to **(NEW NAME) RADHAMANIAMMA P K** And **DOB** from **01.07.1957** to **27.11.1956** Vide Affidavit Dated 25.03.2026 Sworn Before Notary S.I. BALAGURU BANGALORE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Miss. **Malavika** D/o Gundreddy Amareswara Rao, residing at Pranavam, No 27, 2nd Cross, T P Venugopal Layout, Ganganagar, R T Nagar Post, Bangalore North, Bengaluru-560032, do hereby solemnly declare that **Malavika** & **Malavika Gundreddy** both the names are one and the same. I further declare that I have changed my name from **MALAVIKA** to **MALAVIKA GUNDREDDY** vide Affidavit dated 01.04.2026, sworn before Notary Leela, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SMITA RAVIKUMAR KULKARNI, W/o. Ravikumar Kulkarni, Age 46 years, Residing at No.127, 4th Cross, Bandematta Extension, K S Town, Kengeri, Bengaluru-60, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SMITA TO SMITA RAVIKUMAR KULKARNI.** vide affidavit dated 28/03/2026 sworn before advocate & Notary N. Sandhya, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **Mr. RAGHUNANDAN M M**, & **Smt. SWETHA M B**, resident No. 238/4, 7th Cross, Halahalli Road, Neharu Nagar, Mandya-571401, do hereby declare that we have changed our daughter name from **HITASHREE R (HITASHREE RAGHUNANDAN)** to **HANSIKA RAGHUNANDAN GOWDA,** vide affidavit dated 01.04.2026, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mr. Babu Venkatappa Reddy**, aged about 48 years, S/o Venkatappa Reddy, residing at No. 225, Koppa Village, Hulimangala Post, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru - 560105, have changed my name from **Babu Venkatappa** to **Babu Venkatappa Reddy**, vide affidavit dated 28/3/2026 sworn to before A C Subbu Swamy Advocate and Notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
WE, MD Nizamuddin, and Sadiya Banu, residing at No.12, Mutton Market Road, Near Ganesha Temple, Hosakote, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka – 562114 we have changed our minor daughter's name from MADINAH FATHIMA to MIFRAH FATHIMA Vide Affidavit dated 02/04/2026 sworn before Advocate & Notary B M Chandrashekar, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **HOTHUR CHANDRA SEKHAR GOWD,** R/o Flat No. 102, RMS Shashi Nilayam, 1st Cross Road, Defence Accounts Employee Layout, B Narayanapura, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru-560 016 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **CHANDRA SEKHARA GOUD HOTHUR** to **HOTHUR CHANDRA SEKHAR GOWD,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **HOTHUR CHANDRA SEKHAR GOWD** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 25-03-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. RAJENDRA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) HANUMANTAPPA,** father of No.16117166P, HAV, MAHANTESH KURATTI, residing at Reddi Oni, Hombal (Vill & Post), Gadag (Tehsil & Dist), KARNATAKA (State), PIN: 582204, Have Changed my name to **(NEW NAME) HANUMANTAPPA B KURAHATTI** And **DOB** from **01.07.1952** to **01.01.1952** Vide Affidavit Dated 01.04.2026 Sworn Before Notary MEER HASSAN BANGALORE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mrs. Bhavya** W/o Mr. Sridhara R, residing at No A301, 4th Floor, JCSV Pride Apartmetns, Sy No.11/2, Kembathahalli B G Road, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560076, do hereby solemnly declare that **BHAVYA** and **SRIDHAR BHAVYA** both the names are one and the same. I further declare that I have changed my name from **SRIDHAR BHAVYA** to **BHAVYA** vide Affidavit dated 16.03.2026, sworn before Notary L PUTTARAJU, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **GEETA YADAV,** residing at No. F-403, Sumadhura Shikharam Apartment, Opposite to Hanuman Temple, Seegehalli, Bangalore, Karnataka-560067, do hereby declare that **GEETA YADAV** and **GEETA SUNIL YADAV** that the above mentioned names are one the same person and my correct name is **GEETA YADAV**, vide affidavit dated 31.03.2026, sworn to before Rajanna .S.M, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, No. JC209002W, Rank : Ex Subedar Major, Name : Irappa Kadappa Janamatti, S/o. Late Kadappa, R/at. No. 384, 4th Cross, 11th Main, Near BDA Complex, 5th Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru-560034, do hereby declare that I want to change my spouse name from **ARUNA** to **ARUNA IRAPPA JANAMATTI,** vide affidavit dated 01-04-2026, sworn to before XXIX Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHIVANANDAPPA M** (Old name) S/o **Hanumanthappa Manchi** resident of Neharu Colony Shiralakoppa Shiralakoppa Rural Shivamogga 577428 have changed my name to **SHIVANANDA MANCHI** (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 3/4/2026 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Naveen Kumar.M.B , R/at No.53/1, Alemane, Arishinakunte, Near Vishwashanti Ashram, Brindavan Layout, Nelamangala, Bangalore Rural District. hereby inform that, Earlier my son was named as **ARYA.B.N.** Since this name did not suit to him, We have changed my son's name as **GHANYA ARYA.B.N.** Henceforth, I have declared that my son's name will continue to be as **GHANYA ARYA.B.N** only in all Documents. Vide affidavit Dated : 2-4-2026, Sworn before the notary S.Chandrashekar at Doddaballapur.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DEEPALI CUDNEKAR ANTANI,** R/at A 902, Oceanus Tranquil, Maragondanahalli, Krishnarajapuram, Bengaluru-560 036 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **DEEPALI PANDURANG CUDNEKAR ANTANI** to **DEEPALI CUDNEKAR ANTANI,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **DEEPALI CUDNEKAR ANTANI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 3rd April 2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. RAJENDRA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ARVIND KUMAR, S/o Mr. Sampath Raj, aged about 53 years, Residing at 267,4th Main Road, Opposite to Anjaneya Temple Backgate, Maha lakshmipuram Layout, Bangalore-560086. Declare that My Name **ARVIND KUMAR** (Aadhar Card) was wrongly mentioned as **KUMAR SAMPATHRAJ ARAVIND** in my old Passport (No: L 3566221). **ARVIND KUMAR** and **KUMAR SAMPATHRAJ ARAVIND** belong to the same person vide affidavit Dated: 31.03.2026 before Notary Vanajakshi.R, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mrs. BAYYAMMA** W/o M Nagaraj, residing at No.324, Kembathalli Village, Bannerghatta Road, Gottigere Post, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, do hereby solemnly declare that **BAYYAMMA** and **V BAYYAMMA** both the names are one and the same. I further declare that I have changed my name from **V BAYYAMMA** to **BAYYAMMA** vide Affidavit dated 16.03.2026, sworn before Notary L PUTTARAJU, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MATHEVAMMA SIVANAPPA, aged about 72 years, W/o. Sivanappa, residing at No. 4170, Bilikkal, Urigam, Denkanikote, Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu-635102, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **P. MAHADEVAMMA** to **MATHEVAMMA SIVANAPPA**, vide affidavit dated 01.04.2026, sworn to before Mamatha .NK, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MINAKSHI CHETAN KUMAR** (Old name), aged about 42 years W/o **CHETAN KUMAR HIRACHAND JAIN** Residing at No. 2201, 22nd Floor Manikchand 117FF, Kanakapura Road, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru: 560070 have changed my name to **MINAKSHI CHETAN KUMAR JAIN** (new name) vide affidavit dated: 31/3/2026 Before Notary **Mohammed Hussain. K** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Manjula Kolavi**, W/o. Vinod Shetty, R/at No.770, 3rd Stage, 4th Block, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru 560079, Karnataka, India. I have changed my name from **MANJULA VINOD MALSHETTY** to **MANJULA KOLAVI**. Sworn before H S Sakalesh Aradhya, Advocate & Notary Bengaluru, vide Affidavit dated 01.04.2026.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PRADEEP M, S/o Manjunatha Prasad G,age 31 years, R/at No. 560, Ground Floor,5th Main, Godavari Nadi Road, Pipe LineRoad, Srinagar, Bengaluru-560 050 do hereby declare that in my SSLC Marks Card, My Father name is wrongly mentioned as **MANJUNATH PRASAD C** instead of correct name **MANJUNATHA PRASAD .G,** henceforth I shall use my father name as **MANJUNATHA PRASAD.G** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 01-04-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **ANITHA BAI** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **GOPI A,** S/o Agalurappa, age 40 years and **SHOBHA,** w/o Gopi A, age 40 years, both R/at No. 25, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Surabhi Badavane, Shivanahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064 do hereby declare that we have changed our daughter's name from **CHANDANA G** to **CHETHANA G,** henceforth she shall be known and called as **CHETHANA G** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 28-03-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S. VENKATASUBBA REDDY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) RATHNAVVA,** mother of No.16117166P, HAV, MAHANTESH KURATTI, residing at Reddi Oni, Hombal (Vill & Post), Gadag (Tehsil & Dist), KARNATAKA (State), PIN: 582204, Have Changed my name to **(NEW NAME) RATNAVVA HANAMANTAPPA KURAHATTI** And **DOB** from **01.07.1956** to **01.01.1966** Vide Affidavit Dated 01.04.2026 Sworn Before Notary MEER HASSAN BANGALORE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, myself, **RANGANATH GOULDING,** Residing at 412, 6 'B' Main, 2nd Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043, Karnataka, India Declare that I have changed my Son's Name from **PRAHAAN GUNDERI RANGANATH** to **PRAHAAN RANGANATH** in accordance to affidavit dated 28-03-2026 Sworn before Notary Advocate Y R Chandrasekar, Bangalore-560032

CHANGE OF NAME
I, RAVIKIRAN J JOSHI, Age 53 years, Permanently Residing at No.A-305, Mantri Alpyne, Uttarahalli Kengeri Main Road, Near Patalamma Temple, BSK 5th Stage, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru-61, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RAVIKIRAN JOSHI** TO **RAVIKIRAN J JOSHI**. vide affidavit dated 28/03/2026 sworn before advocate & Notary N. Sandhya, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SATISH** (old name) S/o **Ratnakar Shet** resident of No 1, Sri Chamundi Nilaya, 8th Cross, Nanjarasappa Layout, Chandra Layout, Bengaluru -560072 have changed my name to **SATISH RATNAKAR SHET** also known as **SATISH R SHET** (new name) vide affidavit dated: 3/4/2026 Before Notary **H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Vinod Shetty, S/o. Vishavanath Malshetti, R/at No.770, 3rd Stage, 4th Block, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru 560079, Karnataka, India. I have changed my name from **Vinod Vishavanath Malshetti** to **Vinod Shetty**. Sworn before H S Sakalesh Aradhya, Advocate & Notary Bengaluru, vide Affidavit dated 01.04.2026.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **A SHIVA KUMAR,** S/o. M.Armugam, aged about 55 years, residing at No.34, 3rd Cross, Vannarpet Layout, Bengaluru-560 047, have changed my name to **M A SHIVAKUMAR** vide affidavit dated: 02.04.2026 before Notary **Sivakumara M.N**,Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **SMT. SAVITHA .B.G,** D/o Gangadhara B.E, W/o Arokya Raj D, age 47 years, R/at #152, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Swathantranagar, Virgonagar Post, Bengaluru-560 049 do hereby declare that in my minor son **ARYA TITUS .A** educational records, his mother tongue has been incorrectly recorded as **TAMIL** instead of **TULU**, vide affidavit dated 30-03-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **C. RAJENDRA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) ANASUYA K,** mother of No.16128116K, NK, CHIDANAND KAMMAR, residing At/ Post:Chikkamaygeri, Bagalkot (Tq & Dist), KARNATAKA (State), PIN: 587207, Have Changed my name to **(NEW NAME) ANUSUYA KAMMAR** And **DOB** from **01.01.1974** to **01.01.1982** Vide Affidavit Dated 02.04.2026 B.V. NAGABHUSHANA ADVOCATE & NOTARY BANGALORE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KAVITHA .K,** Aged about 51 years, W/o. Sri. K. Dinesha and Resident of No. FF1, Omkaar Greenview, 1175, 60 Feet Road, II Cross, HMT Layout, 7th Block, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru - 560 097, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **KAVITHA DINESHA** to **KAVITHA .K** vide affidavit dated 01.04.2025 sworn before N.K. Lakshmana, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MANISH KUMAR**, aged about 50 years, S/o. Late R.S. Sinha, residing at No. C-501, Orchid Enclave, Hosakote Road, Near Seegehalli Bus Stop, Seegehalli, Kannamangala Post, Bangalore-560067, do hereby declare that I have changed my daughter's name from **ADITI** to **ADITI SINGH**, vid affidavit dated 31.03.2026, sworn to before Yankoba, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Saurabh Singh, father and natural guardian of the minor child mentioned below, residing at G2-308, Chourasia Manor Phase-2, Kaverappa Layout, Kadubisanahalli, Bangalore - 560103. That the mother's name of the minor child is Neelam Singh, we have decided to change the name of our daughter from **Jasmine Sirohi** to **Keshvi Choudhary**, vide affidavit dated 15/3/2026 sworn to before B M Chandrashekar Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SAKINA SHABBIR HUSSAIN BOHRA aged 31 years. W/o MUFFADAL MOHAMMED CHIKHLIWALA, resident of No.401, 402, 4th Floor. Hussani Arcade, Bohra Layout, Gottigere, B.G.Road, Bangalore-560083, have changed my name to SAKINA MUFFADAL CHIKHLIWALA for all purposes affidavit dated 02/04/2026 sworn before advocate and notary Lakshmiah, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KANAKAM G NAIR,** W/o. No.277855K, late Ex JWO T G GANGADHARAN NAIR, residing at #A105, La Palazzo Residencies, Sarjapur Main Road, Next to Manipal Hospital, Ambalipura, Iblur Junction, Ambalipura, HSR Layout, Bengaluru560102, have changed my name from **KANAKAM** to **KANAKAM G NAIR** vide Affidavit Dated: 01/04/2026, sworn before XXIX Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **FRANCIS GAMA,** S/o Joseph Gama aged about 66 years, residing at Flat No. 402 4th Floor V V Palloti- 1 Divya Unnati Layout, Near Vincent Palloti School Babusapalaya Bangalore-560 043, have change my name to **FRANCIS XAVIER MALIGAO GAMA,** vide affidavit dated: 02.04.2026 before Notary **L.Gopalakrishna,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) JEGADEESAN UDAYA KUMAR.,** residing at No. 30, Usha Nilayam, 2nd Main Road, D V Apparao Layout, Ramamurthy Nagar, Dooravaninagar Post, Bangalore-560016, have changed my Name from **(OLD NAME) JEGADEESAN UDAYA KUMAR** to **(NEW NAME) J UDAI KUMAR** vide affidavit dated 31.03.2026, sworn before Notary Leela., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, SATHWIK B.P. and SUSHMA B.R. R/a No. 214, 1st Floor, 5th 'D' Main, 2nd Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560 043 have changed our Daughter's name from **SHRAVYA B.S.** to **SHRAVYA BANTWAL SATHWIK** vide affidavit dated 30th March 2026 before Notary Uday Kumar K, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **GNANESHWARI .J**, D/o. Javarayi Gowda, residing at #543, Gangondanahalli, Bangalore South, Nayandahalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560039, do hereby declare that both the names i.e., **GNANESHWARI J** and **KEERTHANA** refer to one and the same person that is myself, vide affidavit dated 17.03.2026, sworn to before K.C. Shashikala, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **HATTANGADI ANURADHA ARUN** Aged 73 years, W/o. Late. Mr. Hattangadi Arun Dattatray, Permanently residing at No.1A/6, Talmakiwadi, Tukaram Javaji Road, Tardeo Road, Grant Road, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400007, Presently at Bangalore do hereby solemnly affirm that my name as per my Aadhar card, Passport and Bank records is **HATTANGADI ANURADHA ARUN** and in School Records my name is **CHAMPA NAIMPALLY** alias **N.CHAMPA**, in my Marriage Certificate my name is **CHAMPA GOPALKRISHNA NAIMPALLY** accordingly all the above names belongs to one and the same person only and confirmed vide affidavit dated 30/03/2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary **C Srinivasa**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHYLA JAYAKIRAN HOSUR, aged 41 years, W/o Jayakiran Eshwar Hosur, residing at No.409, Maruthi Nagar, Muniyappa Layout, Nagashetty Halli, Bengaluru-560094, have changed my name to SHYLA H B for all purposes affidavit dated 30/03/2026 sworn before advocate and notary C.N. Chandarashekar, Bangalore

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GILLI NATA LOCKS DEBUT LEAD ROLE IN CHANDRA MOHAN'S NEXT

Bigg Boss Season 11 winner Gilli is also involved in the script writing of the comedy entertainer along with the director

CE FEATURES

SINCE winning *Bigg Boss* Season 11, Gilli's popularity has increased. The question on everyone's mind is simple: What comes next? He has appeared in a few films in key roles, but none have fully captured the interest around him. At the same time, Gilli has been writing, developing ideas, and expressing a desire to direct a film someday. Before pursuing those goals, he is taking a solid step forward.

Gilli will star in a full-fledged comedy directed by Chandra Mohan, known for helming Bombay Mittai, Double Engine, Brahmachari, and Forest. In fact, he is also currently working on another project starring Shaneel Gowtham, produced by BK Gangadhar. Once that film wraps up, he will shift his attention to Gilli's project.

Interestingly, Gilli's role in this project with Chandra Mohan goes beyond acting. He is collaborating with the director on the script writing. This indicates that he wants to enter as a well-prepared performer.

This film will be his first as a hero, and expectations are high. The rest of the cast and crew are still being finalised, with discussions underway to bring talented technicians onto the project.

This psychological exploration needed more control and coherence

PSYCHIC

Director: Pushkara Girigowda

Cast: Sardar Sathya, Hamsa Prathap, Nikitha Dorthody Kylas Dev, Reshma Lingarajappa, Rohith Nagesh Rathasapthami Arvind, and Sameer Nagarad

A SHARADHAA

PSYCHIC opens with a scene that suggests a deep exploration of brokenness. A drunken man returns home to betrayal and meets his end in a moment that feels both sudden and inevitable. This striking opening is not just shocking but suggests a film about breaking apart. It explores the slow development of a disturbed mind, how something fractures, and what happens next. For a brief moment, Pushkara Girigowda's *Psychic* might seem poised to embrace that discomfort. There are hints that the roots of this fracture are found in a household marked by unease and control, where relationships bear quiet, unspoken tension. But then the film changes direction.

Soon, it moves into more familiar territory. A group travels to Agni Resort, seeking a quiet celebration, only to get tangled up with a man who may or may not be a psychotic killer. From here, the film shifts from internal struggle to the mechanics of suspicion.

Rohit (Rohit Nagesh), his wife, Vikas (Kylas Dev), and Pranathi (Nikitha Dorthody) take the story to the Malnad region, captured with a strong sense of mood. There's mist, pauses, and a constant feeling that something is off. Vikas picks up on it early. The house seems to hold memories. A story of abandonment hangs in the air. These are powerful details that suggest a deeper psychological space. But the film rarely dwells on them. It keeps moving, almost restlessly, as if afraid that stopping might reveal the gaps.

The thriller aspect develops through a series of murders. An ATM shooting has no leads. A cab driver is found dead, with his vehicle missing. A pattern of slitting tongues hints at either a ritual or precision. Inspector Chandrika (Hamsa Prathap) leads the investigation, which unfolds in bits and pieces. A car numbered 1160, a photograph of Shivu (Sardar Satya), and an incident at a petrol station each feel like parts of a bigger picture, but the film presents them in a scattered way.

The dynamic between the group and the unknown man they meet works at times. They rescue him, talk to him, and try to understand him. Slowly, suspicion turns inward. This idea is intriguing. That doubt spreads. That communication can become a trap. However, the writing didn't go deep enough, and scenes meant to create tension often play out flat.

RATING 2/5

There's also a tendency to revisit the same questions. Is the killer left-handed? Is he shaped by trauma or driven by impulse? Is Shivu the killer, or just part of something bigger? The film repeats these questions but rarely changes their context. It seems to confuse withholding for creating tension.

Sardar Satya, although he appears late, makes an impact. His performance has a quiet restraint, suggesting something held back. In a film where many characters feel like mere vessels for information, he offers a presence. It hints at a more controlled, confident film that *Psychic* could have been.

Psychic feels like two films trying to occupy the same space. One focuses on how a fractured mind forms. The other aims to create a puzzle around a killer. Neither fully succeeds. What's left is a film that keeps moving and asking questions, but rarely settles into anything substantial.

A stranger to its own story

APARICHITHE

Director: Vishwanath Gopalakrishna

Cast: Dr Srinath, Geetha Priya, Rohith Srinath, RJ Nikitha, and Sindhu Loknath

A SHARADHAA

APARICHITHE means 'the stranger' or 'the unknown.' The title fits, but not in the way the film likely intended. The strong, unsettling idea at the centre is the disappearance of girl children. This theme doesn't require layers of invention. It needs clarity, conviction, and control. For a brief moment, the film seems to recognise that.

Set in a nearly abandoned rural school, the story follows Geetha (Geethapriya), a teacher who leaves her comfortable life to try to keep the school alive. Students don't show up. Families don't care. Education feels like background noise.

Then comes the question that should have driven the film: Where are the girls? Not just in the classroom but in the village and surrounding areas. It feels as if they have been erased. This is where the film should have tightened its focus and dug deeper. Instead, it goes round and round. Scenes come and go, characters enter and exit, conversations happen, but nothing really builds. It feels like the film is constantly starting but never moving forward. There's a school track here, a broken relationship there, a doctor with a couple of staff, a missing pregnant woman, and it all hints at a larger network. Everything is touched upon, but nothing is held onto.

At some point, you stop waiting for it to come together. There is also a noticeable gap between what happens on screen and what the film requires. Except for Srinath, who brings a certain old-school charm, and Rohith Srinath's Rajesh, along with Rj Nikitha, who plays Deepa, most performances feel unrefined. There's a difference between being natural and being cinematic. Here, it often feels like people are just being themselves in front of the camera, without shape or rhythm.

The unfamiliarity of the director, Vishwanath Gopalakrishna, and the actors does not translate into freshness. It feels underprepared. The film seems to exist because a few people wanted to see themselves on screen, rather than because the story needed to be told.

RATING 1.5/5

Relationships also feel unsettled. For example, Geetha and her brother Rajesh have a sibling dynamic that feels off and occasionally distracts because it is tonally mismatched. The film tries to build an atmosphere with forest stretches and silences, hinting that something is lurking. However, the background score does not trust these moments. It becomes loud and jarring. Instead of drawing you in, it pushes you away.

By the time the core reveal comes up, it doesn't register enough because the film has not earned that moment. The final stretch, involving multiple characters, including Srinath and Padma (Sindhu Loknath), trying to expose the truth, feels rushed, as if the film suddenly remembers it needs to conclude. Coming back to the title, *Aparichithe*... It feels more like the film is a stranger to its understanding of storytelling. There is a serious subject here, but the film keeps circling it, never stepping into it.

What remains is not anger but disappointment. It feels like something important was within reach, but it was never truly grasped.

Aditya, Srinagar Kitty's *Terror* fixes release date

CE FEATURES

THE makers of Aditya and Srinagar Kitty's *Terror* announced that the film will arrive in theatres on April 10. It joins a cluster of films scheduled for release around the same time, setting up a busy period at the box office.

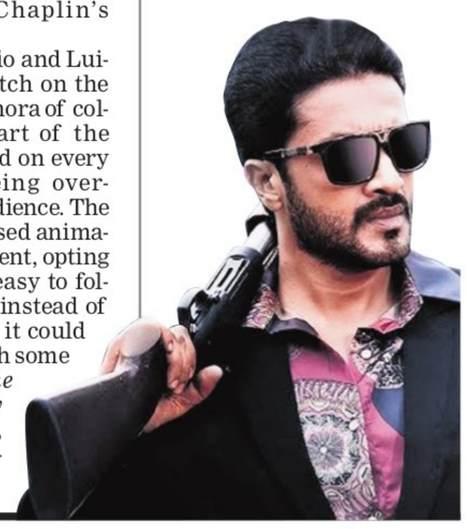
Produced by Silk Manju, Ravi, and Smita Vasishta, and directed by Ranjan Shivaram Gowda, the trailer of *Terror* was launched in the presence of filmmaker SV Rajendra Singh Babu, along with senior actors Jai Jagadish, Vijayalakshmi Singh, Sundarraj, Pramila Joshai, Dingi Nagaraj, Lahari Velu, and Brahmanda Guruji, who came together to support the team.

Aditya thanked everyone who stood by the film from the start and credited the team for their effort. He also noted that debutant director Ranjan has put together a strong story. The film marks the reunion of Aditya and Srinagar Kitty after 21 years.

Srinagar Kitty said he was glad to reunite with Aditya after a long gap and called *Terror* a film that gave him a chance to work with a strong team. He added that the story and the way his role is written led him to take on the project.

Along with the release date announcement, the team has released a trailer that gives a glimpse into the film's world. It shows a setting filled with fear, where characters seem caught in situations they cannot fully understand.

The cast also includes Devaraj, Shashikumar, Kumar Bangarappa, and Sharath Lohitashwa, adding experience to the film. Music is composed by Harshavardhan Raj, with lyrics by V Nagendra Prasad.



Meryl Streep to headline *The Corrections*

CE FEATURES

A LONG-gestating screen adaptation of *The Corrections* is finally moving ahead, with Netflix securing the project and handing it a straight-to-series order. The limited series will feature Meryl Streep in a central role, bringing one of contemporary literature's most celebrated family dramas to the screen.

Author Jonathan Franzen is personally adapting his 2001 novel, while Cord Jefferson, known for his work on American Fiction and Watchmen, is set to direct. The project originates from Paramount Television Studios, with Netflix reportedly emerging as the winner after competing bids from multiple platforms.

Describing the tone of the show, Netflix calls it "a sharply comic portrait of a Midwestern family whose three unmoored adult siblings desperately resist their mother's (Streep) wish for one last Christmas together — each undone by the delusional ambitions that were supposed to save them from becoming their parents." Streep will next appear in The Devil Wears Prada 2 and is also attached to the thriller Useful Idiots alongside Sigourney Weaver, as well as a Joni Mitchell biopic directed by Cameron Crowe.

Peaky Blinders sequel rounds out lead cast

CE FEATURES

NETFLIX has announced that actor Jamie Bell has joined the upcoming *Peaky Blinders* sequel series as the lead. The streamer has also released a first look at Bell, who will portray Tommy Shelby's (Cillian Murphy) son, Duke Shelby. Also joining the cast of the sequel series are Stranger Things fame Charlie R Heaton, Jessica Brown Findlay, Lashana Lynch, and debutant Lucy Karczewski. Stephen Knight, the creator of the original Peaky Blinders series, is also behind the upcoming series.

Set in the 1950s, in Birmingham, United Kingdom, the Peaky Blinders sequel will see the return of Duke Shelby (portrayed by Barry Keoghan in Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man), as he races to rebuild the city destroyed by World War II. This sets off a dangerous race amongst various factions in the city. Duke Shelby was first introduced in the final season of Peaky Blinders.

Stumbles to fly while aiming for the stars

THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE

Director: Michael Jelenic, Aaron Horvath

Cast: Chris Pratt, Anya Taylor-Joy, Charlie Day, Jack Black, Benny Safdie, Brie Larson

ASHWIN S

WHILE writing a story based on popular characters, creators are burdened with the pressure of having to take measured steps in order to balance original storytelling with fan service. Another measure that is added is when you have to reintroduce the world, for the sequel. After trying to overcome all these obstacles, where does the substance find its place? *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie* has the familiarity, nostalgia, and the setting that will pull entire families into theatres. But is that enough?

One does not have to treat children as naive people in order to teach them some values. That is where *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie* stumbles, in its writing. The film opens with Princess Rosalina (Brie Larson), the mother of the Lumas, reciting the story of Princess Peach (Anya Taylor-Joy). The Lumas play a key part as leverage, in the conflict between Rosalina and the Koopas. In trying to make us root for the Lumas, they are portrayed as the cutest beings ever. While we are able to understand the intention, we are not able to sympathise. The woes also continue with Yoshi (Donald Glover), the newest addition to the gang of the Mario brothers. While Peach is involved in the rescue of Rosalina, Mario (Chris Pratt) and Luigi (Charlie Day) conveniently discover Yoshi, whose only purpose is being a plot device, when there is no way out. Yoshi is a comic relief, when a break from tension is needed, he is a saviour, when saving is needed, and all powerful during conflicts. But what are his motives? Why should we care for him? These questions linger on throughout.

RATING 2.5/5

The use of such a star studded voice cast also does not add anything to the film, bar certain members. Glen Powell as Star Fox is able to bring his Top Gun gravitas to the role of the pilot, Star Fox. Even if the character has a limited screen time, Powell is able to make a worthy impact. Jack Black and Benny Safdie as Bowser and Bowser Jr, continue to blossom in their roles. But the film is never devoid of its popcorn fun moments. In trying to pay homage to the games, the film has some sequences which land well. While Peach and Toad (Keegan-Michael Key) reach the Gateway Galaxy to get to Rosalina, there is an extended chase scene, through an underground casino and a boss fight with Wart and his minions. While at the risk of being tacky, those sequences work well, with the sliding platforms and the gravity defying setting all leading to some engaging moments. The film also does not hold back when certain characters are at a risk of being killed. This is an example of the better written parts of the film, as the shock value is paid off when those characters, who have a proper arc throughout the film, face such conflicts. Thankfully, at certain parts of the film, the humour also works well. For example, Yoshi (who is devoid of dialogues to a point where it reminds you of Groot) has to recount his journey from the real world to the Mushroom Kingdom, we are given a montage with thrills and turns that reminds you of Charlie Chaplin's capers.

The world of Mario and Luigi is a beautiful watch on the silver screen. A plethora of colours from every part of the spectrum is splashed on every scene, without being overwhelming for the audience. The creators have also used animation to the fullest extent, opting for impossible but easy to follow camera moves, instead of snappy edits. While it could have been better with some minor changes, *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie* is still a fun, switch-off-your-brain watch.